

Vissarion (Aris) Zounarakis

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Summary

Backend-focused full-stack software engineer with a Master of Science in Software Engineering and experience building Java and Spring services, React and Angular product features, and local-first developer tooling. Current work spans ADP Lyric HCM, a global HCM and payroll platform, plus the independent Talos and TrueRolls projects.

Skills

Languages. Java, JavaScript, TypeScript, and SQL. Working knowledge of Python and Rust.

Backend and data. Spring Boot, REST APIs, MyBatis, JPA, PostgreSQL, MariaDB, Apache Lucene, Gradle, and Maven.

Frontend. React, Angular, WebGL, HTML, CSS, responsive design, and accessibility.

Quality and delivery. JUnit 5, Mockito, Playwright, CI/CD, Docker, Linux, Git, code review, ADRs, and runbooks.

Local AI tooling. llama.cpp, Ollama, local retrieval, context handling, and approval-gated tool workflows.

Work Experience

ADP - Software Engineer, Lyric HCM

Barcelona, Spain | Jul 2024 - Present

- Build and ship country-compliant payroll capabilities in Java and Spring Boot for ADP Lyric HCM.
- Deliver cross-regional fixes across a segmented global architecture while meeting changing legal, policy, and release constraints.
- Author runbooks, ADRs, and troubleshooting documentation used for onboarding and production support.

DataAnnotation - AI Model Evaluation Contractor, Software Engineering

Remote | Jan 2024 - Dec 2024 | Independent contract

- Reviewed and scored LLM-generated code and reasoning across Java, JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, C#, and SQL.
- Ran and inspected solutions, diagnosed compiler and runtime failures, and wrote concise rationales and corrections.
- Designed and reviewed prompts and acceptance tests for coding, refactoring, test generation, debugging, and code explanation.

Netcompany-Intrasoft - Software Engineer, EU Programmes

Remote, Greece | Mar 2022 - Mar 2024

- Delivered full-stack features for ESDEN and SDMX-RI, two live EU statistical platforms, using Java, Spring, React, Angular, and SQL.
- Migrated a legacy team database to a newer platform version on a short timeline.
- Acted as a cross-team knowledge bridge and authored technical documentation and ADRs used for onboarding and delivery.

Additional Experience

Fine Arts Studio - Web Developer, Contract

Remote, Greece | Mar 2021 - Present | Occasional maintenance

- Built a catalog website for more than 1,000 products and continue to maintain it. Improved product data quality and the browsing experience.

Independent Contractor - Data Analysis and Digital Projects

Greece | 2017 - 2022 | Project-based

- Delivered project-based data analysis, research, localization, and digital work for private clients.
- Used Excel, Python, and SQL to clean, structure, and compare real estate data for a private investment engagement.
- Built dynamic Google Data Studio dashboards with supporting JavaScript and TypeScript components, and produced multi-page reports and property comparisons.
- Coordinated data requests, documentation, and follow-ups between the client and contacts at Greek banks.

Projects

Talos - Local-first workspace operator

2025 - Present | Open source | github.com/ai21z/talos-assistant

Local-first Java CLI workspace operator for governed developer tasks. It uses bounded tools, explicit approval gates, local model execution, context handling, and durable traces.

- Built with Java 21, PicoCLI, Gradle, Apache Lucene, managed llama.cpp, and an optional Ollama backend.
- Supports workspace inspection, approved text-file changes, local indexing and retrieval, session state, and verification-oriented outcomes.
- Published installable developer beta releases for Windows x64 and Ubuntu or WSL x64, with documented trust, privacy, and capability boundaries.

TrueRolls - Verifiable dice system

2025 - Present | Public repository, proprietary license | github.com/ai21z/TrueRolls

Rust-based dice system that produces Ed25519-signed receipts from a public grand quicknet beacon.

- Receipts can be replayed and checked offline in the browser or command line.
- Built with Rust, Axum, WebAssembly, React, Vite, Three.js, PostgreSQL, Redis, and S3-compatible storage.
- Documents the current protocol boundary. Receipts verify published rolls, while witnessed fairness against operator suppression remains a v2 goal.

Education

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Software Engineering - University of Thessaly, Greece

2019 - 2021

- Thesis. Extended a Java EE application with a REST API, improved security, and additional test coverage.

Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) in Environmental Engineering - University of Western Macedonia, Greece

2009 - 2015

Awards

- ADP Internal Hackathon, 2025. Second place overall and Creativity and Innovation Trophy.
- Hackcorona, 2020. Team placed sixth with an emergency telemedicine application.

Selected Certifications

- Oracle Cloud Infrastructure 2023 Certified Foundations Associate.
- Oracle Database Design and Programming with SQL.
- Testing Java with JUnit 5 and Mockito, Udemy.
- DevOps Competences for Smart Cities, University of Nicosia MOOC.

Publications and Writing

My 1st Year as a Software Engineer: Lessons Learned. 2023. zounarakis.com/blog/cosmos/first-year-software-engineer

Fail Fast, Learn Faster - Instinct, on Purpose. 2025. zounarakis.com/blog/codex/fail-fast-learn-faster

Languages

Greek, native. English, fluent. Spanish, A2.