Victor Gichohi

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SUMMARY

Software Engineering Manager with 10 years in software development and 3+ years leading distributed engineering teams, focused on mission-critical payments infrastructure for mobile money across Africa. Leads a remote team of senior engineers across Kenya, South Africa, and India at Onafriq, where recent work spans a security-hardening programme, hands-on validation of a GCP-to-AWS platform migration, and the architecture for migrating legacy monolith disbursement processing onto a shared payments platform.

CORE SKILLS

Engineering Leadership: distributed team management · hiring & mentoring · performance reviews · agile delivery · cross-functional stakeholder alignment

Technical: Python, Django, Java, C#, Go · GCP, AWS · gRPC · PostgreSQL, MySQL · CI/CD · NewRelic, Datadog, Kibana · Linux, NGINX

Domain: mobile money & cross-border payments integrations (M-Pesa, Airtel, MTN, Vodacom) · compliance & sanctions screening · security hardening & secrets management

EXPERIENCE

Software Engineering Manager — Onafriq (formerly MFS Africa) **May 2022 – Present**

Leads a remote engineering team spanning Kenya, South Africa, and India, owning technical direction and delivery for the Enterprise Platform powering Onafriq's mobile-money payment integrations across Africa.

- Own and am delivering a three-stage security-hardening programme (credential log masking, secrets-manager migration, mutual-TLS on a partner-facing proxy) protecting mobile money integrations, with two of three milestones deployed to production.
- Led the response to a non-production data-hygiene gap that risked exposing real customer data from a stale database copy: personally audited 28 applications (~110 handler modules) and defined the field-level data-masking rules now being built into the test-environment refresh process.
- Root-caused and shipped a production fix for a currency-classification bug that let a blocked partner corridor bypass a compliance control at the dispatch layer — closed within about five weeks of diagnosis, without altering the latency-optimized dispatch path relied on by every other partner.
- Leading hands-on validation of a GCP-to-AWS platform migration: ran load tests against AWS staging, root-caused a DNS-resolution fault blocking a database proxy and a logging-library shutdown bug, and produced the staging performance baseline gating the production cutover decision.
- Directed a gRPC migration of collection-request post-processing off a Django/Cloud Tasks request lifecycle: traced the existing path end-to-end, established a 50,000-request latency baseline, and validated the new service against live production traffic across five mobile money networks.
- Architecting the integration (adapter service, canonical API contract, programme risk/decision register) to migrate disbursement processing off a legacy monolith onto a shared payments platform; in solution design with a Q4 2026 pilot target.
- Own the platform-decomposition epic for splitting the core Django monolith into services, including the current-state architecture baseline (dependency maps, request-lifecycle diagrams) the team's roadmap is built from.
- Authored the technical specification and two-phase, dual-sign-off go-live plan for archiving a growing production transaction database — designed to cut an existing ~72-hour turnaround to minutes — sequenced around a concurrent cloud-migration cutover.
- Ran a hands-on engineering workshop that cut database queries per payment-dispatch request by more than half (~390 to ~172), and personally updated team-wide code-review standards following a security-review finding.
- Built a tiered production-support escalation process and introduced NewRelic, Datadog, and Kibana-based monitoring, improving SLA visibility and success-rate tracking across the payments platform.
- Hire, coach, and run quarterly performance reviews for a team of senior engineers; partner with product and scrum leadership on roadmap planning and sprint delivery.

Senior Software Engineer — Onafriq (formerly MFS Africa) **Jan 2021 – May 2022**

- Enabled customers including Spotify, Google, and Facebook to collect payments across Africa for the first time, building a cross-border collections capability into a single USD (or customer-chosen currency) wallet, with integrated forex conversion, sanctions screening, and reconciliation.
- Designed and built a low-level adapter unifying multiple MNO APIs behind a single interface, cutting new-network integration time from 2 weeks to 2 days.
- Upgraded the platform's Django version to a long-term-support release, improving security posture and unlocking new framework capabilities.
- Built an Excel-upload feature for bulk disbursements that became the platform's second-most-used payment upload method.

Software Engineer — Beyonic Ltd **Sep 2018 – Jan 2021**

- Delivered MNO API integrations across East Africa, including Vodacom Tanzania, Airtel Uganda, M-Pesa Kenya, MTN, and Airtel Rwanda.
- Owned VPN setup and monitoring for mobile-network-operator connectivity.
- Provided third-level technical support, resolving production bugs against customer SLA commitments.

Software Engineer — Twaweza Communication Oct 2016 – Sep 2018

Built a C#/Unity mobile game teaching children values such as honesty and generosity.

Software Engineer — Yum Deliveries Jan 2016 – Sep 2016

Backend developer (Python/Django) for a food-delivery platform; shipped rider GPS tracking for the customer-support portal.

EDUCATION

University of Hertfordshire — MSc, Advanced Computer Science (in progress, online)
University of Hertfordshire — BSc, Computer Science (Upper Second Class)
Moringa School — Software Engineering Certificate