

OUALID GHARACH

Senior Solutions Architect (TOGAF 9) | Java Technical Lead

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French National | South Africa Permanent Resident

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Solutions Architect and Technical Lead with 20+ years translating complex business requirements into integrated, enterprise-grade technical solutions across payments, telecoms, and digital banking platforms. TOGAF 9 certified, with deep hands-on experience designing architectures that align with enterprise roadmaps, governance standards, and long-term strategic objectives, from SOA and middleware platforms through to modern API-led and event-driven architectures across Africa and Europe.

Proven ability to bridge business strategy and application architecture, identifying integration opportunities, managing complex system interdependencies, and presenting technical direction to senior leadership. Comfortable navigating regulatory change, organisational complexity, and evolving stakeholder expectations across large enterprise environments.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Solutions Architecture | Enterprise Architecture (TOGAF 9) | API & Integration Design | Systems Integration & Delivery Leadership | Strategic Thinking & Stakeholder Influence | Java Development | Microservices Architecture | Cloud Deployment & DevOps | Agile Delivery

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Backend Development: Java (11–21) | REST APIs | Microservices

Spring Ecosystem: Spring Boot | Spring MVC | Spring Security | Spring Data

Enterprise Integration: Payment Gateways | Mobile Money Platforms | OSS/BSS | API Integration

Messaging, Security & Resilience: RabbitMQ | OAuth2/JWT | Resilience4j

Databases & Persistence: PostgreSQL | MongoDB | Oracle | MySQL | SQL Server | JPA/Hibernate

Cloud & DevOps: AWS | Docker | CI/CD | GitHub Actions | Nginx

Testing & Quality: TDD | JUnit 5 | Mockito | Testcontainers

Observability & Monitoring: Grafana | Prometheus | Loki | CloudWatch

Architecture & Delivery: TOGAF 9 | Agile | Scrum | Kanban

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Career Break | Jul 2025 – Present

Deliberate pause following the birth of a child, prioritising family while studying toward AWS Certified Solutions Architect and building a hands-on Java portfolio applying clean architecture, SOLID principles, and design patterns across payment-domain microservices. Projects include secure REST APIs, event-driven messaging with RabbitMQ, resilience patterns via Resilience4j, and full observability stacks, containerised and deployed via Docker and GitHub Actions. Portfolio available at oualidg.dev

MultiChoice Africa

Programme Manager: Group Payments | Johannesburg, ZA | Nov 2023 – Jun 2025

Led technical delivery of Project Moment, a multi-market digital payments migration across 20+ African regions.

- Provided technical delivery oversight across payment integrations, rollout readiness, and multi-market migration activities spanning 20+ African regions.
- Oversaw migration of ~70% of payment volumes while maintaining platform stability; enabled Pay-On-TV QR payment capabilities.
- Worked closely with three Project Managers across delivery governance, rollout coordination, and regional execution.
- Produced SteerCo reporting, meeting minutes, and risk tracking covering delivery status, system readiness, rollout dependencies, and GTM readiness.

Career Break | Feb 2021 – Nov 2023

Deliberate sabbatical following Covid – extended family time between South Africa and France, property renovation and sale.

Nedbank

Engineering Lead | Johannesburg, ZA | Jul 2019 – Feb 2021

Led systems engineering and solution delivery across digital banking and lending platforms within Nedbank Group Technology.

- Led Agile delivery for the Lending Repayment Strategy System (LRSS), producing end-to-end technical designs, REST API contracts, integration patterns, and security specifications.
- Managed cross-functional engineering squads delivering backend (.NET/C#), frontend (Angular), and mobile integration workstreams.
- Defined integration architecture using IBM API Connect, JWT-based security, and enterprise REST API standards.
- Engineering Lead for the Nedbank Money App chat platform (SignalR), supporting secure real-time customer communication and ongoing feature delivery.
- Established code review standards and mentored engineers across multiple delivery teams.

MultiChoice Africa

Technical Lead / Solutions Architect | Johannesburg, ZA | Oct 2013 – Sep 2018

Led solution architecture and technical delivery for the MultiChoice Africa payment ecosystem across 50+ African regions.

- Interpreted Business Requirements Specifications (BRS) as the primary input for solution designs, producing TOGAF-aligned technical assessments, integration architectures, and solution designs for enterprise payment, provisioning, and fiscalisation platforms across 50+ African regions.
- Presented solution designs and architecture recommendations regularly to senior leadership, supporting strategic technology decisions and ensuring alignment with enterprise architecture principles and roadmaps.
- Managed complex system and infrastructure interdependencies across concurrent integration programmes, overseeing delivery through structured development stages while balancing competing platform priorities.
- Designed and delivered integration architectures for the Digital Payment Platform, onboarding 10+ payment providers across cards, banks, and mobile money ecosystems; modernised the M-Pesa middleware platform achieving 99.9% uptime.
- Led a cross-functional engineering team across Java and C# technologies, guiding solution implementation and ensuring designs were delivered in line with architectural specifications and quality standards.
- Maintained and monitored deployment environments across AWS using EC2, S3, and CloudWatch.

Soulstice Consulting

Technical Manager | Johannesburg, ZA | Sep 2012 – Sep 2013

Led technical delivery for mobile money and payment integration platforms across multiple African markets.

- Managed engineering teams delivering Java-based MTN Mobile Money integrations supporting utility and bill payment services across regional markets.
- Led development of the Soulstice Integration Gateway platform, providing centralized routing, orchestration, authentication, and transaction logging for payment integrations later adopted within the MultiChoice Africa payment ecosystem.
- Supported AWS-hosted deployment environments using Amazon EC2 and Linux production systems.
- Contributed to solution proposals and delivery planning activities supporting the growth of the MultiChoice engagement.

Cell C (via Soulstice Consulting)

Manager: Operations & Service Delivery / Solutions Architect | Johannesburg, ZA | Apr 2010 – Aug 2012

Delivered solution architecture and operational leadership across telecom OSS/BSS and customer provisioning platforms.

- Designed and delivered a Java EE and Oracle-based RICA compliance integration platform supporting customer identity verification and SIM registration processes.
- Managed a 20-person operations team supporting CRM, billing, provisioning, integration, and telecom OSS/BSS platforms for the Virgin Mobile South Africa (VMSA) environment.
- Redefined operational SLAs, improved support processes, and consistently exceeded 99% service response performance across 24/7 support operations.

EARLIER CAREER (2000–2010)

Thomson Reuters – Lead Java Developer | London, UK | Jul 2009 – Apr 2010

Led J2EE upgrade of alertnet.org using Spring MVC, Spring Security, and Spring Batch ETL.

Telkom – Senior Java Developer | Pretoria, ZA | Aug 2006 – Mar 2008

Designed and delivered an enterprise Appointment Management System using Spring and Java.

DSG Group Plc – Senior Java Developer | Hemel Hempstead, UK | Aug 2005 – Jun 2006

Developed an online finance application on JBoss and contributed to Agile XP release cycles; prototyped a Struts/Java migration for retail web platforms.

Atos Origin – Java Developer | UK & France | Apr 2000 – Jul 2005

Five years across enterprise Java projects for British Telecom, Ericsson, Defra, and Atos France, spanning J2EE, telecoms systems, and large-scale web platform migrations.

EDUCATION

MSc, Telecommunications & Information Technology – Nice-Sophia Antipolis University, France

BSc (Hons), Information Technology – Nice-Sophia Antipolis University, France

CERTIFICATIONS

TOGAF 9 Foundation – The Open Group, 2016

Sun Certified Java Programmer (SCJP), SE 6.0 – Sun Microsystems, 2009

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate (*In Progress*)

LANGUAGES

French (Native) | English (Bilingual)
