John Mikael Lindbakk

Senior backend developer | Tech lead

Senior backend developer and tech lead who builds robust, maintainable software. Cares about architecture that can evolve, teams that can sustain a pace, and code the next person can actually read. More than 13 years across healthcare, banking and insurance, and since 2023 as a consultant. Does open source and public speaking.

lindbakk.com
atomfinger (GitHub)
john-mikael-gundersen (LinkedIn)

Work

Senior Consultant

bspoke
May 2023 – Present
Oslo, Norway

Consulting as a senior backend developer, architect and tech lead in client teams, across logistics, finance, public health and telecom.

- Architect on a greenfield logistics platform: a modular monolith built with Domain-Driven Design, event sourcing and event-driven integration, delivered by up to three teams
- Team lead and tech lead for the core credit-card systems at a large Nordic IT services company, where I set the test strategy, introduced contract testing and took part in the PCI audit
- Architect for a public health institute's move to a new Azure and Kubernetes platform
- Brought in at the end of a critical telecom infrastructure project, after its two original developers had left, to do a security audit, fix the remaining bugs and bring it to the finish line
- Developer on a restaurant ordering platform, building integrations with point-of-sale systems
- Mentored developers, gave internal talks and held technical interviews

Tech Lead

Protector Forsikring

Dec 2020 – May 2023
Oslo, Norway

Improved how the developers worked: architecture, test strategy, CI/CD and coaching.

- Tech lead across several teams, responsible for architecture, coaching and how the developers worked day to day
- Owned the test strategy and the CI/CD pipelines, including the move from TeamCity to GitHub Actions
- Introduced practices that stuck: post-incident reviews, Architecture Decision Records, self-updating dependencies and DORA metrics
- Built an initialiser that generates production-ready services, which became the foundation of every new application
- Replaced authorisation logic scattered across codebases with central policies and audit logging
- Led a project that geolocated more than 90% of the insured buildings in the UK, and built the reinsurance application used for risk analysis
- Took part in most major technology decisions during my time there

Senior Consultant

TietoEvry
May 2018 – Nov 2020
Oslo, Norway

Maintained and created core solutions for major Nordic banks.

- Built and maintained core backend systems for multiple banks: reporting, integrations and a generic changelog
- Created automated integration testing that cut a week-long manual test of a bank's core systems to 15 minutes, and improved CI/CD pipelines
- Authored developer guidelines for a cleaner and more maintainable codebase
- Team lead for the team responsible for our PCI compliant systems
- Project architect for new banks joining the platform, responsible for the technical side from sale to delivery
- Worked closely with partners in India

System Developer → Senior System Developer

Aspit
Sep 2013 – Apr 2018
Seljord, Norway

Made electronic health record systems for the privatized healthcare sector in Norway. Started as a system developer and was eventually promoted to team lead.

- Responsible for the development of the core product, an electronic health record system
- Team lead: estimated, planned and followed up projects, and gathered requirements from customers
- Built integrations with payment terminals, accounting systems and video chat, and a system for migrating customers between vendors

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- Worked closely with the business by planning and implementing new features
- Worked closely with an outsourcing team in Vietnam, and lived there for a few months to do it

Education

Aberystwyth University

Bachelor of science in **Computer Science**
Aug 2010 – Jun 2013

Courses

- CS38010 - Space Robotics
- CS36410 - Intelligent Robotics
- CS38110 - Open Source Development Issues
- CS31310 - Agile Methodologies

Projects

Gleam and BEAM: Looking beyond the JVM

Speaker at **JavaZone**
Sep 2026
talk

On exploring a different language on a different VM: how Gleam brings a statically-typed, functional, immutable language with no exceptions to the BEAM, where every process is tiny, isolated, communicates via messaging, and embraces "let it crash".

My advice to CompSci graduates

Speaker at **Aberystwyth University**
Feb 2026
talk

Here I shared advice for graduates touching on AI, automated testing, legacy code, and the importance of understanding practical implementations of theory and concepts.

Riding the Sour Train: Building surtoget.no with Gleam

Speaker at **Gleam Gathering**
Feb 2026
talk

A two-part talk: first on how technical skills can help shed light on real-world societal problems — using surtoget.no as a case study — then on driving correctness through the type system.

Thinking Architecturally

Speaker at **bspoke**
May 2025
talk

talk

A talk all about thinking about architecture in terms of dependencies, and how these dependencies connect, but also how the size and complexity of the codebase impacts architecture.

Modern testing — Test more and better with less friction

Speaker at **JavaZone**
Sep 2024
talk

On writing testable systems and what testability actually means in practice. Demonstrated different approaches to automated testing, including contract and approval testing.

Certificates

Confluent Certified Developer for Apache Kafka

Issued by **Confluent**
Mar 2024

OWASP course

Issued by **OWASP**
May 2021

Skills

Developer

Kotlin/Java C# .NET
Gleam and Erlang/OTP Python
SQL of various kinds and MongoDB
Microservices and modular monoliths
Kafka and Azure Service Bus
Architecture and Domain-Driven Design
Contract first gRPC

DevOps

GitHub Actions TeamCity
Jenkins Docker Kubernetes
Helm and GitOps
Azure DevOps
Datadog, Grafana and OpenTelemetry
Solution design

Security

OWASP OAuth 2.0
Open Policy Agent PASETO

Testing

Testcontainers System tests
Mockserver Contract testing
Narrow & Wide integration tests
Spock/Junit/Mockito/Nunit/etc

AI-assisted

development

Claude Code Codex

Gemini CLI

Languages

English

Fluent

Norwegian

Native speaker