JANUSZ NOWAKOWSKI



Fractional CTO · Forward Deployed AI & Platform Engineer · Cloud & SRE

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PROFILE

Technology leader, Fractional CTO, and forward-deployed engineer based in Bern with 30 years of hands-on experience across regulated finance, med-tech, manufacturing, and early-stage software companies. I embed directly with founders, executives, and engineering teams to turn ambiguous operational problems and AI prototypes into reliable, governed production systems, combining multi-model AI workflows (OpenAI/Codex, Claude, Grok), unstructured data pipelines, and enterprise cloud/SRE discipline shaped at Google Switzerland, Roche, BIS, Sygnum Bank, and Hilti. I stay hands-on in architecture, implementation, and team enablement so organizations own and run what gets built.

CORE CAPABILITIES

Forward-Deployed AI & Data Pipelines

Customer-embedded scoping and prototype-to-production delivery; multi-model AI workflows (OpenAI/Codex, Claude, Grok); production LLM & vision ingestion pipelines for unstructured data; AI delivery governance and human-in-the-loop review gates.

Fractional CTO & Executive Alignment

Direct collaboration with founders, boards, and operational owners; architecture and build-vs-buy decisions; engineering team formation and mentoring across Switzerland and distributed international teams.

Cloud, Platform & ML Infrastructure

AWS, Azure, GCP, Kubernetes, OpenShift, Kubeflow ML Platform-as-a-Service, Terraform, AWS CDK (Python), GitOps (ArgoCD), CI/CD pipelines, and observability (Prometheus, Grafana, Elastic, Datadog).

Regulated Security & Financial Systems

FINMA-regulated crypto banking (Sygnum), central banking (BIS), regulated med-tech (Roche), Swiss DSG and GDPR data governance, zero-trust architecture, high availability, and Bitcoin / Lightning infrastructure.

EXPERIENCE

Founder, Fractional CTO & Forward Deployed Engineer

2025 – Present

CloudIndustry — Bern, Switzerland

- **Graftd (Director of Platform Engineering, Current):** Embedded directly with the founder of a US architecture-tech startup to unify tooling and build the engineering platform enabling architectural firms to capture and reuse project knowledge across real customer data.
- **DanceConnect (Business & Technology · AI Delivery Consulting):** Partnered with the founder to shape the go-to-market strategy and accelerate product development for a Swiss dance-school platform, introducing AI-agent engineering workflows across planning, implementation, review, testing, and release to compress delivery cycles by orders of magnitude.
- **Rumba Experience & Tumbao (AI Operating Lab):** Built and operate a live multi-country ecosystem run with an AI-agent workforce under human review. Engineered production LLM and vision queue-draining pipelines (Grok) parsing thousands of unstructured messages across dozens of groups into structured operational data.

Independent Technology Journalist & Executive Development

Aug 2024 – Jun 2025

Independent · Technische Rundschau & Industry Media — Bern, Switzerland

- **Independent Journalism & Field Reports:** Published technical field reports in Technische Rundschau and produced a 4-language interview series with founders and CTOs across AI, fintech, and Bitcoin infrastructure (including Relai, Boltz, and PPQ.ai).
- **Communication & Languages:** Completed formal Nonviolent Communication (NVC) and negotiation training; advanced German and achieved conversational fluency in Spanish.

Site Reliability Engineer / Cloud Automation Lead (Contract)

Aug 2023 – Aug 2024

Bank for International Settlements (BIS) · via Source Technology — Basel, Switzerland

- **Central Banking Trading Platform:** Automated the end-to-end CI/CD lifecycle for FIS Front Arena across Windows and Kubernetes (Azure DevOps, PowerShell, Elastic Stack), removing single points of failure under strict regulatory security constraints.
- **Universal Postal Union (Parallel Consulting, Bern):** Guided Addressing Solutions in evaluating Elasticsearch, building automated Azure data-loading and performance-testing tooling handed over to their internal repository.

Software Engineer / Cloud Technical Account Manager (Contract)

Aug 2022 – Aug 2023

Google Switzerland · via Adecco — Zürich, Switzerland

- **Forward-Deployed Zero-Downtime Migrations:** Embedded with internal product teams to migrate production services from deprecated Conga platform to Pod without downtime, working hands-on across Go, Java, Python, and C++.
- **Stakeholder Enablement:** Aligned engineering teams, service owners, and management; reduced ongoing maintenance overhead and delivered clean handover documentation and team training.

Tech Lead / Deputy Head of SRE

Jan 2022 – Jun 2022

Sygnum Bank AG · FINMA-Regulated Crypto Bank — Zürich, Switzerland

- **Regulated Multi-Cloud SRE:** Formed and led the SRE team at Switzerland's first FINMA-regulated crypto bank; built Terraform IaC across AWS, Azure, and OpenShift with GitOps (ArgoCD) and service mesh (Istio).
- **Compliance & Self-Service:** Delivered CI/CD automation, incident management, and audit-ready security controls in coordination with certified external compliance partners.

AWS Cloud Consultant / Development Lead (Contract)

Aug 2020 – Dec 2021

Roche · via CTC Resourcing — Basel, Switzerland

- **Machine Learning Platform-as-a-Service:** Architected and delivered a production ML platform on AWS, Kubernetes, and Kubeflow enabling data scientists to develop, train, and serve models in a regulated med-tech environment.
- **Hands-On Development Lead:** Coordinated a team of six developers during the final six months, contributing AWS CDK (Python) infrastructure code and connecting CI/CD directly to production deployments.

Senior DevOps Engineer / DevOps Lead

Dec 2018 – Jul 2020

Hilti Corporation — Schaan, Liechtenstein / CH

- **Global Delivery Blueprint:** Built cloud-native CI/CD and Terraform IaC pipelines adopted as the production release blueprint; built and led a cross-border DevOps team across Switzerland and India (Scrum/SAFe), aligning engineering delivery with business strategy and external security audits.

Earlier Engineering & CTO Leadership

2002 – 2018

Scigility AG · Assa Abloy · Grid Dynamics · Base CRM · Ericsson · WESEM — Switzerland & Poland

- **Scigility AG (Switzerland, 2017–2018):** Designed and automated hybrid Cloudera/Hortonworks Big Data platforms on AWS, Azure, and on-prem for Swiss banking, telecom, and institutional clients (incl. UBS data governance and UPU Hadoop on AWS via Paranor).
- **Cloud & Infrastructure Engineering (2014–2017):** Led AWS migration at HID Global / Assa Abloy; built in-memory Big Data platform and led DevOps Community of Practice at Grid Dynamics; managed 1,000+ AWS Linux servers at Base CRM (acquired by Zendesk); designed HA SQL Server private cloud at Ericsson.
- **WESEM Manufacturing — CTO / Solution Architect (2002–2014):** 12 years owning full IT infrastructure, 3D CAD systems, production-floor networking, high availability, and Lean/TQM quality operations across three manufacturing sites.

EDUCATION, WORKSHOPS & LANGUAGES

MBA in Business & Entrepreneurship
Lazarski University / ASBiRO, Warsaw · 2011–2013

BSc in Computer Systems
AGH University of Science & Technology, Kraków · 2006–2010

Certifications & Training: Cloudera Certified Administrator (Hadoop), ITIL, PMI, TÜV Nord Project Management, Nonviolent Communication (NVC), Advanced Negotiation, Lean/TQM.

Workshops & Speaking: Institutional workshops with Bank Vontobel AG, Swiss banking innovation programs, Frankfurt School Blockchain Center, and J-Labs; MC at BTC Prague 2026.

Writing & Research: Field Reports for Technische Rundschau; 4-language executive interview series on AI, fintech, and Bitcoin infrastructure; creator of Swiss Mechanical Engineering Directory (cloudindustry.ch/karte/).

Languages: English (Fluent) · German (Professional Working) · Polish (Native) · Spanish (Conversational)

SELECTED REFERENCE EXCERPTS

> *"Outstanding service, great communication, timely updates. Best experience since 2010 at Google."*
>
> Engineering Stakeholder · Google Switzerland

> *"Sound technical experience. Direct communication. People-oriented. Proactively identified business risks."*
>
> Head of Operations · Hilti Corporation

> *"Strong initiative and commitment, took clear ownership and executed relevant aspects."*
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> Bank for International Settlements (BIS)