

IRINA SAFONOVA

Senior Software Engineer · Solution Architect — AI & Data Platforms

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PROFILE

For more than 20 years I have been turning operational complexity into software: enterprise platforms, financial workflows, data products and, now, AI-powered solutions. I work across product strategy, software architecture and implementation — from understanding how a business actually operates to designing the systems, data flows and automation behind it.

CORE EXPERTISE

- SQL Server / T-SQL (25 yrs), Python (10 yrs), performance tuning
- Machine learning (6 yrs), LLM integrations (OpenAI, Azure OpenAI), AI agents & AI-driven workflows, RAG-style data access
- Microservices & backend automation, REST APIs & system integration, streaming (Kafka, Azure Event Hub)
- Azure & AWS (5 yrs), Docker, Terraform (1 yr)
- Agile / Scrum (Certified ScrumMaster), CI/CD fundamentals, consulting & stakeholder communication
- Solution architecture, tech lead / team lead, cross-functional bridging

EXPERIENCE

2026 — present **Lead Solution Architect** — *Early-stage B2B SaaS platform (stealth)*

Full ownership of the architecture for an early-stage product: data modeling, ingestion pipelines, API layer, authentication and per-tenant security, deployed on Python and Azure — with LLM-based components integrated where the product calls for it. Security and compliance (GDPR-aligned data handling, per-tenant isolation) built in from day one.

2024 – 2026 (2 yrs) **Technical IT Consultant** → **Senior Software Engineer** — *Good Sign Oy*

Started as Technical IT Consultant, customizing the product to individual client needs in SQL — then moved into Senior Software Engineer, building SQL-centric, data-intensive architecture for a platform supporting hundreds of client organizations' billing operations, including LLM-based workflows and RAG-style access over structured enterprise data. Took the Scrum Master role for the team when needed.

2017 – 2024 (7 yrs) **Business & IT Consultant** — *Self-Employed*

Independent consulting for enterprise clients across multiple domains; legacy modernization, data-flow redesign, and reporting automation.

2012 – 2015 (3 yrs) **SAP/ERP Migration Consultant** — *Stroytekhkom*

Led the migration of a factory's core operations from SAP to a local ERP alternative — data migration, business-process remapping, and cutover planning around production continuity.

2023 **Adjunct Lecturer** — *LUT University*

Guided software engineering student teams through Agile/Scrum delivery.

2022 **Scrum Master** — *Oppi AI, LUT*

Facilitated Scrum for a development team; backlog management and requirement refinement with the Product Owner.

2007 – 2012 (5 yrs) **Software Developer** — *Al-Arqam International School, Qatar*

Built a student assessment system that moved grade entry, term averages and report cards off paper and into one system — report work that took 3–4 days dropped to about half an hour.

2000 – 2008 (8 yrs) **Team Lead / Software Engineer** — *Giprosvyaz — Institute of Communication Structures*

Led a six-person team delivering the institute's ERP: contracts, project stages and deadlines for fiber-optic and exchange projects. Built the CRM integration and automated manual accounting postings, cutting processing time by 70%; reports that took an hour now generate in about 10 minutes.

EDUCATION

M.Sc. Software Engineering & Digital Transformation — LUT University, Finland (2021–2023)

M.Sc. Communication Networks & IT — State University of Telecommunications (2001–2007)

Automated Control Systems for Aircraft — B.Sc., D.F. Ustinov Baltic State Technical University "Voenmeh"

Automated Database Management Systems — Physics & Mechanics Engineering College

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified ScrumMaster (CSM) · AWS Cloud Quest Practitioner · IoT · IBM Cloud Computing