Ntsika Gqiba

Solution Architecture · Cloud & Software Engineer · Retail systems

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Profile

I design and build the systems that connect a retailer's tills, stock and accounts to its online channels. At LNS Corporation I designed a headless commerce platform that keeps a footwear retailer's web store in sync with its in-store ERPNext till, led ERPNext rollouts across the group's businesses, and am replacing a legacy retail system. I document my designs as architecture decision records, and I came to engineering from the business side (BCom Information Systems), so I start from the business requirement, not the technology.

Skills

Solution architecture: requirements to system design, current-state mapping, logical and physical design, solution alternatives, architecture decision records, integration design

Retail systems: ERPNext / Frappe (stock, POS, sales, accounts), legacy system replacement (IQ Retail), e-commerce (Medusa, WooCommerce), payments (Paystack), RFID stock control

Integration & data: signed webhooks, transactional outbox, idempotency, reconciliation, REST APIs · PostgreSQL, Firestore, Redis

Cloud & delivery: Oracle Cloud, Google Cloud, AWS, Docker, Linux, Cloudflare · GitHub Actions, Playwright, Lighthouse budgets, runbooks

Languages: TypeScript / JavaScript, Python, Dart (Flutter), Java and Kotlin (Android RFID SDK), HTML, CSS

Experience

Software Engineer, LNS Corporation, Boksburg

Sep 2026 – present

LNS is a holding company with aluminium manufacturing, glass retail, plastics and footwear retail (Comfy Shoes) businesses. I design and run the group's business systems.

- Designed and built Comfy Shoes' headless commerce platform, keeping the online store in sync with the in-store ERPNext till for stock, prices, orders, payments and returns (see Selected solution designs).
- Led the ERPNext implementation across the group's branches, from requirements to configuration, print formats and staff guides.
- Scoping the replacement of Premium Aluminium's legacy IQ Retail system and POS with ERPNext, including mapping supplier pricing spread across 20+ catalogues.
- Building RFID stock control on Chainway handhelds: RetailBridge for Comfy Shoes (7,610 SKUs tagged, integrated with IQ Retail stock exports) and an offline-first stocktake app for the Premium Aluminium showroom.
- Deploying the company CRM on AWS.

Founder & Engineer, Chatly (Vularis Pty Ltd)

Jun 2026 – present, in development

- Designed a multi-tenant WhatsApp commerce platform: quotes, payment links and order records for small businesses, on Google Cloud Run with Firestore and PostgreSQL.
- Designed the payment flow so merchant funds settle directly to each merchant's bank via Paystack subaccounts.
- Approved through Meta's WhatsApp Business App Review; quote-to-payment flow proven with a live transaction.

Paid Ads Campaign Manager, LNS Corporation, Boksburg

Nov 2025 – Sep 2026

- Owned Google Ads for the group's B2B and retail brands: R250k+ spend across 7 campaigns, 4,100+ conversions at under R90 per lead on core lead-generation accounts.
- Built Looker Studio dashboards reporting business outcomes to leadership.

Junior Paid Media Specialist, #HelloYes Marketing, Bedfordview

Nov 2024 – Oct 2025

- Managed performance of clients' paid media channels.

Selected solution designs

Comfy Shoes: headless commerce synced with ERPNext · case study

- **Requirement:** online stock drifted from the shelf and web orders were re-keyed by hand. ERPNext had to stay the single source of truth.
- **Design:** a Medusa and Next.js store on PostgreSQL. ERPNext pushes stock and price changes through signed webhooks. Web orders, payments, refunds and returns flow back through a transactional outbox with retries and a dead-letter queue. A reconciliation job every 15 minutes repairs drift.
- **Alternatives weighed:** managed cloud hosting versus Oracle Cloud's free tier. Chose the free tier (R0/month), separated staging from production, and documented the single-server trade-off and the exit path.
- **Documentation:** 18 architecture decision records, an integration specification, a runbook and a cutover checklist.

Chatly: multi-tenant WhatsApp commerce · case study

- Split the data by access pattern: Firestore for the real-time messaging path, PostgreSQL as the system of record.
- One payment chokepoint, so no transaction can settle to the wrong account, and orders are written only on confirmed payment.

Premium Aluminium: legacy retail system replacement

- Current-state analysis of IQ Retail and the existing POS; scoping the move of stock, sales and the showroom POS onto ERPNext.

Education

BCom Honours, Marketing, University of the Witwatersrand, 2024

BCom, Information Systems, University of the Witwatersrand, 2021 – 2023