

Christopher Maxwell

Forward Deployed Engineering Lead | Senior Software Engineer

Currently in Cape Town, South Africa | Previously Oslo, Norway, 2022–2025
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Experience

Kavia AI

Forward Deployed Engineering Lead | Head of Enterprise Deployments | Dec 2025 – Present | San Francisco, CA / Remote

- Leading & mentoring a team of seven Forward Deployed Engineers across India, California, and Mexico.
- Writing production code with enterprise customers to plan, build, and deploy AI-enabled SDLC workflows.
- I work with customer engineering teams (including legacy and embedded systems) to inspect repositories, diagnose blockers, define implementation plans, and validate production readiness.
- Created Kavia's internal Forward Deployed Engineer learning course, covering customer discovery, repo inspection, AI-assisted planning, validation, stakeholder management, and delivery.
- I lead a FDE daily stand-up for product and engineering teams to turn customer feedback and edge cases feedback into product improvements.

Career Sabbatical

May 2025 – Nov 2025 | Completed a long-distance hiking sabbatical.

Oblinor AS

Senior Software Developer | Oct 2023 – May 2025 | Oslo, Norway

- Senior developer for a regulated Norwegian crowdfunding platform.
- Contributed to the migration of a 1B NOK transaction system from WordPress into a modern application stack.
- Built full-stack product features across Vue.js, Node.js, TypeScript, Java, payment APIs, AML workflows, and analytics.
- Architected backend services to improve scalability, reliability, and maintainability.
- Created GCP-based DevOps and CI/CD workflows to improve deployment reliability and release speed.

Factivease AS

Head of Engineering & Full Stack Developer | Oct 2021 – Oct 2023 | Oslo, Norway

- Productized proprietary ML/NLP research into a commercial AI-powered fact-checking platform.
- Owned architecture, development, cloud deployment, reliability, and customer delivery for the fact-checking engine.
- Led production deployments across AWS, GCP, and Azure.
- Partnered with the CTO, Vinay Setty, ML Professor at the University of Stavanger, to turn research prototypes into customer-ready products.
- Built and mentored a cross-functional engineering team and established practices for code quality, testing, DevOps, and delivery.

Maluti

Full-Stack Developer | Aug 2020 – Oct 2021 | Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- Built NLP and document-parsing technology for legal clients.
- Developed full-stack features across Python, Node.js, React, backend services, UI components, and API integrations.
- Worked with stakeholders to define requirements, deliver prototypes, and move products toward production readiness.
- Runner-up at Hackathon for Good for the initial solution that evolved into the product.

Cisco Systems

Systems Engineer | Aug 2017 – Aug 2020 | Amsterdam, Netherlands / South Africa

- Customer-facing engineer - designed and delivered networking, security, cloud-aligned, and software solutions for global enterprise customers.
- Completed Cisco's 12-month graduate program in Amsterdam.
- Supported enterprise customer projects across technical discovery, architecture, deployment, and troubleshooting.
- Built a strong foundation in customer-facing engineering, infrastructure, and enterprise technical communication.
- Previously certified in CCNP Routing and Switching and CCNP Security

BLOODHOUND SSC

STEM Programme Manager | Jan 2013 – Dec 2017 | South Africa & United Kingdom

- Delivered 100+ public presentations translating complex engineering concepts for technical and non-technical audiences.
- Managed four staff and 15 volunteers across a national STEM education programme.
- Designed and built a rocket car timing gate system using SolidWorks and CAD/CAM tools.

Technical Skills

Languages: Java, TypeScript, Node.js, Python, React, Vue.js, Android development

Frameworks: Spring Boot, FastAPI, NestJS, NextJS

Cloud & Infrastructure: AWS, GCP, Azure, Docker, Kubernetes, MLOps, CI/CD, deployment automation, edge/serverless architecture, cloud-hosted databases, MongoDB Atlas, serverless PostgreSQL

AI/ML: LLMs, prompt engineering, LangChain, RAG, spaCy, LSTM, hybrid search

Customer Engineering: Discovery, product requirements, technical scoping, repo inspection, implementation planning, production readiness, stakeholder management, executive communication

Tools: GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket, Gerrit, Postman, Linear, Notion, Slack, Microsoft Teams, Google Workspace

Education

University of KwaZulu-Natal

BSc Honours in Physics, 2.1 | 2015

Thesis: Violation of the Bell Inequality using a single-photon source

Rhodes University

BSc in Mathematics & Physics | 2009–2012

Guy Kibbey Award for second-year physics results