

ALMIR SARAJČIĆ

Senior Software Engineer · Elixir/Phoenix · Developer Infrastructure & AI-Assisted Development

Kenya (UTC+3) · Remote opportunities

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My work is about making coding agents useful on real codebases: give them a plan, limit the ways they can go wrong, and check the result.

I started writing software in 2012 and moved to Elixir in 2017. Before agents, I spent years working on CI, static analysis, and test infrastructure. I now use the same machinery to catch what agents get wrong. Models are good at producing plausible code; the surrounding system has to decide whether it belongs in production.

Building Kogen, a software-building system in development. Previously ran a software agency, owning delivery, technical direction, and shared developer tooling. My work connects product decisions with implementation and evidence-based review.

EXPERIENCE

Founder - Optimum Tech, LLC | United States · Remote · Jan 2022 - Present

Founded and operate the company; pivoted from client services to owned AI developer products in 2025.

Kogen - Software-building system | 2025 - Present

Open-source development preview · kogen.dev

- Developing a software-building system around a simple idea: shape the feature and leave the build to Kogen. Product and UX decisions lead; technical decisions are specified where they matter.
- Built an Elixir core that uses Codex CLI to implement features after explicit approval, run checks, obtain independent review, rework failures, and commit accepted results. The current core operates within Kogen's own repository.
- Developed the workflow through structured planning, model-facing rules, and automated checks, connecting product decisions to implementation and evidence for accepting the result.
- Built Combobulate using earlier Kogen workflows: a product that creates websites from Telegram conversations, deploys them, and connects domains. That work provided practical experience beyond isolated demonstrations.
- Applied earlier Kogen workflows to existing Phoenix codebases and Kogen's own development. The current core continues that direction, with the aim of building out Kogen through its own shaping and implementation loop.
- Conducted hands-on comparisons of Claude Code, OpenAI Codex, and Cursor Agent, examining planning, subagent orchestration, context and usage limits, and failure modes to inform the tooling and workflow.

Optimum BH - software development agency | Jan 2022 - Jan 2026

- Set technical direction and ran the agency end to end: delivery, team management, and code review, alongside client-facing and commercial work.
- Built and maintained full-stack Elixir/Phoenix applications on the PETAL stack with PostgreSQL for clients across news, media, and video production.
- Owned the shared tooling and CI/CD layer: compilation, formatting, static analysis, dependency and security auditing, migrations, and tests, plus zero-downtime deploys and per-PR preview environments on Fly.io.
- Released open source that outgrew the agency: `github_workflows_generator`, `optimum_credos` custom Credo checks, `phx.tools`, and `optimum_templates`.
- Productised infrastructure work as `optimum_gen_infra`, a commercially licensed Mix archive generating CI, Fly.io CD with preview/staging/production environments, health checks, and observability.
- Wrote and published the six-part Elixir DevOps series, filling a documented gap in the community's CI/CD material.
- Raised the team's standards through code review and mentoring; every developer I trained went on to a role at another company.
- Founded and edited the engineering blog: wrote most posts and edited the rest, coaching the team until their articles ran in Elixir Radar and ElixirWeekly, once as Radar's lead item.

Co-founder & Lead Developer - StoryDeck | Remote · Sep 2020 - 2024

- Hired to build a proof of concept in Elixir and Phoenix for a workflow platform for creators, storytellers, and marketers; took it through MVP to production and stayed on as co-founder and technical lead.

Independent Elixir Contractor | Remote · 2019 - Present

- 21 completed contracts and 4,500+ tracked hours at a recorded 100% Job Success rating, running alongside the agency and product work.
- Implemented WPA3 support for Nerves on Raspberry Pi 4: embedded Elixir at the firmware and networking layer (580+ hours).
- Long-running engagements included an IoT analytics platform for real-time production tracking (GlobalReader), replacing a legacy PHP service with Elixir services, and multi-year Elixir backend ownership for two further clients.

EARLIER SOFTWARE ROLES

- Backend Developer, Mukuru · Oct 2016 - Feb 2020 · Remote. Pan-African remittances fintech. Implemented features in a large PHP application using DDD and TDD; improved and modernised legacy code.
- Full-Stack Developer, Klika · Apr 2015 - Oct 2016 · Sarajevo. Outsourcing and consulting firm. Delivered client projects in Ruby on Rails and JavaScript.
- Full-Stack Developer, Social Eddy · Sep 2012 - Nov 2013 · Remote. Content marketing and social account management platform. PHP, MySQL, and JavaScript; third-party API integrations, analytics, and SQL query optimisation.

Working in software since 2012 across gaming, social media, real estate, finance, education, and news. Adopted Elixir in 2017; primary language since 2020. Bosnian (native), English (fluent).

SELECTED WORK

- **Kogen** - Open-source development preview of a system designed around feature shaping, implementation, and independent review. Source: github.com/KogenAI/kogen.
- **Combobulate** - Website-building product designed around Telegram conversations, deployment, and domain setup.
- **Skeptic.bot** - Podcast research assistant built in Elixir and Phoenix LiveView: AI summarisation and search across hours of long-form audio.
- **phx.tools** - One-command development environment for Elixir and Phoenix on Linux and macOS. Installs the full toolchain and a working Phoenix setup.
- **github_workflows_generator** - Write and maintain GitHub Actions workflows in Elixir instead of hand-edited YAML. Published on Hex.
- **optimum_credito** - Custom Credo checks for Elixir projects: readability, test assertions, and LiveView patterns. Published on Hex.
- **cursor_rules** - Reusable Elixir/Phoenix rules for Cursor; the early guardrails work that became Kogen.
- **ElixirDrops** - Community-driven publishing platform for short notes on Elixir and Phoenix. Built and run by me; I write most of the posts.

WRITING

- **Elixir DevOps series** - Six parts on CI/CD for Elixir: maintaining GitHub Actions workflows, parallel CI with compile caching, testing releases in CI, PR preview apps on Fly.io, zero-downtime deploys, and infrastructure generation.
- **Stop mounting your LiveView twice** - On why LiveView mounts twice on first load, why connected?/1 is only a partial fix, and an experimental resume approach. Top item in both Elixir Radar #515 and ElixirWeekly #516 in the same week.
- **ElixirDrops** - Ongoing short-form technical notes on Elixir and Phoenix internals: GenServer.call/3 timeout semantics, :persistent_term versus ETS for static data, and parallel ExUnit partitions in CI.

SKILLS

AI & agents - AI coding agents and agentic development workflows; agent harnesses, guardrails, and hooks; planning and verification loops; subagent orchestration; evaluation of agent output; Claude Code, OpenAI Codex, Cursor Agent

Languages & frameworks - Elixir, Phoenix, LiveView, Ecto, PETAL stack; JavaScript, PHP, Ruby on Rails

Infrastructure & tooling - CI/CD, GitHub Actions, Fly.io, Docker, PostgreSQL; infrastructure automation, zero-downtime deploys, preview environments; deterministic checks, static analysis (Credo, Dialyzer), dependency and security auditing, test strategy

Product & leadership - Full-stack product development, developer experience, technical leadership, code review, mentoring, and editorial review of other developers' work

INTERESTS & CONTACT

Interested in remote engineering opportunities and focused workflow consulting. Strongest interest in AI coding agents, agent harnesses, verification, evaluation, and developer tooling; open to other product and platform work. Elixir preferred but not required. Contact: almir@optimum.ba.