

Max Nowack

Lead Full-Stack Engineer

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Summary

Lead Full-Stack Engineer and technical co-founder with 15+ years of experience owning architecture and technical direction for B2B SaaS products used by 12,000+ users across 6,000+ business customers. Deep experience across frontend, backend, data systems, infrastructure, and production operations. Focused on pragmatic full-stack architecture, API and data-layer design, local-first/offline-capable systems, realtime collaboration, and maintainable production SaaS delivery.

Selected Impact

- Co-founded and led engineering for TeamGrid, a realtime collaborative SaaS used by 10,000+ users across 5,000+ agencies
- Co-founded and led engineering for VineForecast, a farm management SaaS used by 1,200+ farms and 2,300+ users, including 150+ paying customers
- Owned full-stack architecture across frontend, backend, data layer, infrastructure, production operations, and local-first/offline sync systems
- Designed and built a configurable workflow engine that helped address key enterprise automation requirements for a 6-figure deal
- Created SignalDB, an open-source local-first database with 600+ GitHub stars, designed to make reactive offline-capable data flows easier to implement on top of existing backend architectures

Experience

VineForecast GmbH - Lead Product Engineer / Co-Founder

2021 - Present

- Co-founded and led engineering for a farm management and disease forecasting SaaS used by 1,200+ farms and 2,300+ users, including 150+ paying customers
- Owned technical direction across product architecture, infrastructure, and delivery, including local-first data architecture, Capacitor-based mobile strategy, Kubernetes operations, and hands-on full-stack implementation
- Designed and implemented a local-first data layer and offline sync engine on top of an existing REST backend, enabling offline-capable field workflows while avoiding a high-risk backend rewrite and preserving existing production APIs
- Chose and implemented a Capacitor-based mobile strategy to reuse the existing TypeScript/React codebase, avoid separate native app development, and make offline-capable field workflows feasible for a small team
- Introduced Kubernetes-based infrastructure, CI/CD release processes, and production monitoring with Grafana, Sentry, and Datadog to standardize operations and improve production visibility for a small team

TeamGrid Deutschland GmbH - Lead Product Engineer / Co-Founder

Nov 2015 - Dec 2020

- Co-founded and led engineering from early product architecture to production operations for a realtime collaborative project management SaaS used by 10,000+ users across 5,000+ agencies
- Hired, led, and coached engineers in a 3-person team while owning technical direction across architecture, implementation planning, code reviews, infrastructure decisions, and product trade-offs
- Led pragmatic infrastructure evolution from Heroku and Galaxy to GCP, managed Kubernetes, and bare-metal Hetzner Kubernetes, balancing reliability, operational complexity, cost, and team capacity
- Designed and built a configurable workflow engine spanning data modeling, backend execution logic, API integrations, and frontend configuration UI, enabling customers to create different types of business workflows

- Led incremental modernization from CoffeeScript to JavaScript to TypeScript and from Blaze to React, reducing legacy risk while keeping a realtime SaaS platform stable for thousands of active users
- Partnered with enterprise customers during sales and implementation to translate workflow requirements into feasible product and architecture decisions

Previous Experience

- Full Stack Developer - oaf | medium (2014-2015)
- Full Stack Developer - Sycor GmbH (2010-2014)

Education

- Apprenticeship / Vocational Training in Application Development - MBS Marketing- und Bildungsservice (2007-2010)

Selected Open Source

SignalDB

github.com/maxnowack/signaldb

Open-source local-first database created from production needs at VineForecast, focused on developer experience and simple integration of reactive offline-capable workflows on top of existing backend architectures

- 600+ GitHub stars
- Enables teams to add local-first workflows incrementally without replacing their existing backend architecture
- Uses signal-based reactivity to provide a lightweight developer experience compared with more complex reactive programming models

Selected Skills

Full-Stack Architecture: TypeScript, React, Node.js, local-first architecture, offline sync, realtime collaboration, cross-platform apps with Capacitor

Data & APIs: REST, GraphQL, WebSockets, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, schema design, indexing, migrations, query performance

Infrastructure & Operations: Kubernetes, Docker, Linux, Hetzner, GitHub Actions, CI/CD, Grafana, Sentry, Datadog

Engineering Leadership: technical direction, hiring, coaching, code reviews, implementation planning, developer experience, pragmatic architecture trade-offs

Quality & Security: unit/integration/E2E testing, authentication, authorization, secure API design, secrets management

Languages

German (Native), English (Professional working proficiency)