

ETTIENE WIUM

Tech Lead · Senior Backend / Software Engineer

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Production systems · data pipelines · APIs · cloud · AI-assisted engineering

SUMMARY

Tech Lead and senior backend engineer with eight years in production. I lead SAWIS BI: South African wine import, export, and domestic data, monthly synchronisation from a legacy Mapper pipeline into MySQL (tables over two million rows), and I do the majority of the backend myself. I coordinate a project manager, a senior frontend engineer, and a senior backend engineer, and I own client-facing planning, estimation, technical decisions, and delivery - including annual feature phases and major domestic-data work in 2026.

I also own Indawo as the client engineer, from spec through production, including restoring a failed host with Docker. AWS Certified DevOps Engineer - Professional. Production Linux, Docker, and CI/CD. I use AI-assisted engineering daily (Cursor, Grok, Claude, Codex). Cape Town; targeting globally remote Senior and Lead backend roles.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

8	Backend - PHP, Laravel, Symfony, APIs, integrations	8	MySQL - production modelling, monthly syncs, tables over 2 million rows
8	Linux	8 / 4	Docker - local / production
4	AWS - EC2, Lambda, RDS, IAM	2	CI/CD - PRs, CodePipeline, post-deploy health watch
2	Terraform - freelance and homelab	2	Kubernetes - homelab k3s/k3d

daily AI-assisted engineering - Cursor, Grok, Claude, Codex

SKILLS

Leadership	Tech Lead, SAWIS BI · Client-facing planning, estimation, technical decisions, delivery · Coordinate PM, senior frontend, senior backend · Majority of backend implementation
Backend	PHP / Laravel (8 years production) · Symfony and custom PHP · REST APIs and integrations
Data	MySQL (8 years; tables over 2 million rows) · Monthly sync from legacy Mapper into our database · Import/export and domestic wine-industry data · Relational modelling
Cloud	AWS (EC2, Lambda, RDS, IAM) · DevOps Engineer Professional · Linux (Ubuntu) · Docker (production) · CI/CD (CodePipeline, PR deploys) · Terraform (freelance / homelab) · Kubernetes (homelab k3s/k3d)
AI tooling	Cursor, Grok, Claude, Codex (daily assistants)
Languages	PHP · SQL · JavaScript (frontend collaboration) · Python (scripting) · Bash · Afrikaans (native) · English (fluent)

EXPERIENCE

Tech Lead and Senior Backend Engineer

April 2022 - Present

Silicon Overdrive · Cape Town, South Africa

- Tech Lead on SAWIS BI, a production system for South African wine import, export, and domestic industry data. I do the majority of the backend. I coordinate a project manager, a senior frontend engineer, and a senior backend engineer.
- Own the monthly synchronisation from their legacy Mapper system into our MySQL database. Some tables exceed two million rows. When a sync or import/export job fails, I trace the data path and restore it.

- Own client-facing planning, estimation, technical decisions, and delivery. New project phases ship annually; 2026 includes major domestic-data changes.
- Own Indawo as the client engineer: spec, cost, plan, and ship. When the on-prem host died I moved the legacy PHP app into Docker on spare hardware, restored publishing, and later operated it on an Azure VM at the guest-OS layer.
- Production delivery on Indawo: pull requests and a post-deploy health window. AWS Certified DevOps Engineer - Professional; EC2, RDS, Lambda, IAM, CodePipeline, Linux, Docker in production.

Backend / Software Engineer

June 2018 - March 2022

RogerWilco · Cape Town, South Africa

- Built and ran production backends on Ubuntu and AWS: Laravel, Symfony, custom PHP, plus Drupal and WordPress modules I owned.
- Delivered an RBAC member dashboard (Global Self-Care Federation) and live JSE data graphs.
- Production support on client sites (usb.ac.za, waterfront.co.za): compatibility, DNS/TLS, security reviews.

SELECTED WORK

SAWIS BI

Tech Lead - backend and data · current · PHP, MySQL, legacy Mapper sync, import/export

Monthly Mapper syncs and wine-industry import/export continue in production on tables over two million rows. Failed jobs get a recovered data path. Annual phases, including 2026 domestic data, ship under this lead.

Indawo

Client owner - production application · current · PHP, Laravel / legacy PHP, MySQL, Docker, Azure VM, CI/CD

Production restored after host failure; still running. Delivery loop from spec to sign-off remains mine.

Freelance AWS fleet

Freelance - AWS as code · hosted · Terraform, EC2, RDS MySQL, CodePipeline

Live at fleet.wiums.co.za. Public repo github.com/EttieneW/tf-fleet-iac.

CERTIFICATIONS

- AWS Certified DevOps Engineer - Professional (DOP-C02)
- AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate
- AWS Certified SysOps Administrator - Associate
- AWS Certified Developer - Associate
- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner

EDUCATION

BSc Information Technology - Eduvos, Year 1 (in progress; full working week + online classes)

Information Systems Engineering (ISE), CTI Education Group, 2017-2018

Matric, DF Malan High School, Bellville, class of 2016 (two distinctions)