

# Dr. Christian Schleifer

Backend Software Engineer | Distributed Systems, Low-Latency Services, Large-Scale Data Processing

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## Profile

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Backend software engineer with 6+ years of experience building and modernizing distributed backend systems, low-latency services, and large-scale data processing systems. Strongest in complex environments that require independent execution, careful system design, and cross-team unblocking. Former physician, bringing a diagnostic approach to root-cause analysis, operational reliability, and ambiguous technical problems.

## Experience

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**Software Development Engineer II**, Amazon – Munich, Germany Nov 2022 – present

- Drove retirement strategy for a 19-year-old C++ legacy service with 180+ dependent clients by identifying all in-use APIs, re-exposing them on the replacement platform, defining migration paths, and designing a low-maintenance architecture
- Cut feed build time for a business-critical taxonomy dataset by 50x, from 26 hours to 30 minutes, by launching a new feed generation service that improved data freshness from daily batch updates to near-real-time delivery
- Designed, implemented, and load-tested a Rust-based HTTP service for a planned legacy database replacement, validating 10x higher content capacity and 2x lower query latency to single-digit milliseconds
- Improved reliability across partner systems by leading two cross-organization outage investigations and driving corrective actions in availability, alerting, operational readiness, and backfill safety

**Senior Software Engineer**, QAware GmbH – Munich, Germany Jan 2022 – Oct 2022

- Cut migration lead time for 50+ microservices from months to days by architecting a reusable Kubernetes platform on AWS with deployment workflows used by 30+ engineers across 4 teams
- Built backend APIs and frontend applications for BMW dealer service and diagnostic systems used by thousands of dealers worldwide
- Improved operational reliability for AWS- and Kubernetes-based services by leading a 20-engineer SRE community, standardizing monitoring, alerting, and incident response practices, and driving cross-team knowledge sharing

**Software Engineer**, QAware GmbH – Munich, Germany June 2020 – Jan 2022

- Reduced container attack surface by 50%+ across 50 microservices and 4 engineering teams by standardizing Google Distroless base images and container scanning workflows
- Reduced full-load time for a 2 TB data grid from 2+ days to 6 hours by profiling I/O bottlenecks, tuning cache behavior, and right-sizing AWS storage configuration for throughput and cost efficiency

## Education

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**University of Munich (LMU)**, Doctorate in Medicine – Munich, Germany May 2015 – May 2021

- Doctoral research on cardiovascular macrophages; awarded Summa Cum Laude honors
- Published research on arterial macrophage biology and received merit-based doctoral research fellowships

- Graduated with highest possible final grade; German National Academic Foundation scholarship recipient

## Technical Skills

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**Programming:** Rust, Java, TypeScript, Python

**Backend:** Low-latency HTTP services, distributed systems, async I/O, performance tuning

**Data Processing:** Parallelization, columnar data formats, batch processing

**Infrastructure:** AWS, Kubernetes, Docker

**Reliability:** Observability, alerting, load testing, incident analysis, on-call operations, operational readiness

## Languages

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**German:** Native

**English:** Full professional proficiency