

# Nikita Chernyi

## Principal Backend Engineer · Go · Distributed Systems & Federated Protocols

Porto (Matosinhos), Portugal · EU-remote · Valid Portuguese residence permit (no sponsorship required)  
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## Summary

Backend engineer, thirteen years in production, nine in Go. I design, build, and run distributed systems end to end — protocol work, storage, payments, observability, and the infrastructure underneath. Founder of [etke.cc](https://etke.cc), a bootstrapped managed Matrix hosting service (team of five, 1,000+ servers across six regions). In parallel, I work on Hellotickets' billing platform. My focus is hands-on senior engineering, not management — I keep etke.cc small by design and run it alongside direct IC work because that's the work I want to be doing.

**Stack.** Go (primary, 9+ years) · Echo, maatrix-go, Bleve · PostgreSQL, SQLite, Valkey, BoltDB, Elasticsearch · gRPC · Ansible, Docker, Kubernetes, Traefik, Hetzner, AWS, Azure · Prometheus, VictoriaMetrics, Grafana · Stripe, PayPal, NetSuite · Matrix Federation.

## Experience

### Principal Backend Engineer & Founder · [etke.cc](https://etke.cc) · 2021 – Present · Remote, Portugal

Bootstrapped managed Matrix hosting service, team of five (cofounder: Slavi Pantaleev). 1,000+ servers across six regions on three continents; Cloud Hosting on Hetzner + On-Premises.

- Built the Go automation platform that runs the customer fleet: maintenance scheduling, subscription lifecycle, service discovery, fleet monitoring, remote configuration.
- Built the subscription and invoicing backend end to end: Stripe and PayPal webhooks as near-real-time source of truth with scheduled API reconciliation as a safety net; PDF invoicing via Vendus; inbound-email, bounce handling, outbox-pattern notifications.
- Built [MRS](#), the open-source federated Matrix public-room search engine (Echo, Bleve, BoltDB; trusted notary key server; implements MSC1929, 3266, 4121, 4265, 4439); and [Ketesa](#), the Matrix admin panel (MAS-integrated, ten languages, distributed via GHCR, Nixpkgs, YunoHost, AUR, IPFS).
- Co-maintain [matrix-docker-ansible-deploy](#) with Slavi — the most widely-used community Matrix self-hosting playbook; its README names etke.cc as the recommended managed hosting.

### Go Developer, Billing · [Hellotickets](#) · 2024 – Present · Remote

Billing and payments platform at an international live-events ticket marketplace (company-wide four-day work week).

- Owned the reliability of the internal payments service: rewrote failure-handling and reconciliation paths, converting a standing backlog of failed transactions into recovered revenue and reducing ongoing leakage.
- Core contributor to the migration of Hellotickets' payments onto a new payment-orchestration platform, unlocking additional payment methods and local-first checkout across several markets.
- Designed the currency and payment-method A/B testing setup end to end, giving the business a controllable lever on checkout conversion and cross-market revenue.
- Shipped the GDPR redaction system, NetSuite invoice synchronisation, and disputes synchronisation into the customer-experience and back-office systems.

### Senior Software Engineer · [Crunchyroll](#) · 2021 – 2023 · Remote, Chişinău

Backend work on content discovery, search, and the home page at Crunchyroll's scale — millions of requests per minute. Team of five including the engineering manager.

- Stabilised Elasticsearch on the core search and content-discovery path via horizontal scaling and ingestion redesign.
- Shipped Sony Music catalogue integration, dub-rendition support, real-time personalised recommendations, and A/B-testing on content discovery; built the Home Page backend; reworked caching to cut server count and cost.

**Full CV and references:** [rakshazi.me](https://rakshazi.me) · **Open source:** [github.com/etkecc](https://github.com/etkecc)