

Alexandre Courtiol

VP Engineering / CTO · Engineering Executive

Toulouse, France · Remote across the EU and worldwide
alexandre courtiol.com · linkedin.com/in/alexandre-courtiol

SUMMARY

Engineering executive with 15 years of experience in retail and finance. I build teams, simplify complex platforms and improve delivery while reducing cost. I work with executive committees on strategy and budgets and stay close to architecture, infrastructure and code. Since 2016, I have put applied AI into production, including computer vision, chatbots and retrieval-augmented LLM applications.

EXPERIENCE

Director of Engineering

Groupe Chantelle · Cachan, France (primarily remote) · 2021–2026

- Led digital and e-commerce engineering for a multi-brand global retailer as a manager of managers: 4–5 direct engineering managers and ~30 people across QA, development, DevOps and architecture.
- Rationalised a fragmented estate (six stacks, an on-site and near-shore contractor mix) down to two: a Magento 2 Open Source platform on AWS (Next.js/React) that now serves worldwide through a merchant-of-record, with the US on BigCommerce microservices (GCP, event-driven).
- Ran a Shopify vs. BigCommerce vs. Magento Open Source platform-selection study with an external e-commerce agency to guide the target architecture.
- Cut the operating budget by 25% (€4M to €3M) through standardisation and platform reduction, including a ~€100k/year saving from exiting Adobe Commerce Cloud, while e-commerce GMV grew double digits year on year.
- Halved page-load times and held a 99.99% availability SLO; instilled a remote-first, 'you build it, you run it' culture.
- Rolled out AI engineering tooling (Cursor, then Claude) and put a retrieval-augmented (RAG/CAG) stack into production: PostgreSQL/pgvector, Valkey, n8n and MCP, first on Gemini and now on a self-hosted fine-tuned Gemma served with vLLM, with document ingestion and Magento integrations.

Chief Digital Officer

Société Générale Equipment Finance (SGEF) · Berlin, Germany · 2019–2021

- As managing director of a new SGEF subsidiary, founded and led an autonomous 20–30 person Digital Factory as an internal startup, built from scratch in under six months, with full delegation over hiring, budget (~€2.5M/year), suppliers and product roadmap.
- Recruited the full team: developers, architects, product owners, scrum masters, designers, and data/ML engineers.
- Shipped an AI risk-analysis product (computer vision, including OCR, and machine learning) into production, cutting risk analysis from about two weeks to a day, plus a client portal for contract and repayment self-service.

Engineering Manager, Innovation & Developer Experience

Société Générale · Paris, France · 2015–2019

- Ran two teams, an innovation lab and a developer-experience group (~30 people, €2-3M/year), incubating internal and external startups.
- Launched the YODA support chatbot (Your Own Digital Assistant), a single point of contact for 150,000 employees, years before ChatGPT, plus computer vision including open-source OCR (Tesseract), Pepper robotics and IoT predictive-maintenance projects.
- Built a PSD2 API platform and a central API catalog to cut time-to-market and improve reuse; drove cloud (AWS) and open-source adoption.

Lead Developer

Société Générale · Paris, France · 2015

- Led two full-stack teams; built progressive web apps; championed Clean Code, TDD and Agile/Lean practices.
- Built an investor-relations application that won two 2016 awards (the Prix du Digital, shareholder relations, and a DFIN innovation prize).

Full-Stack Engineer

Sopra Banking Software · Toulouse, France · 2011–2014

- Designed and maintained critical card-payment back-office systems for issuing, acquiring and clearing, using Java EE and Oracle, and contributed to PCI DSS compliance.

SKILLS

Leadership: engineering leadership, organisation design, digital transformation, technical due diligence and distributed teams.

Cloud & platform: AWS, GCP, Azure, Terraform, Docker, Kubernetes, ECS/Fargate, CloudFront, WAF, CI/CD.

Applied AI: LLMs, RAG & CAG, fine-tuning, agents, computer vision (including OCR), NLP (Gemini, self-hosted Gemma, vLLM, Claude, n8n, MCP).

Engineering: PHP/Magento, Node.js, Spring Boot, React, Next.js, TypeScript.

Data: PostgreSQL/Aurora, Redshift, BigQuery, MongoDB, DynamoDB, Redis/Valkey.

EDUCATION

- Engineering Degree (Diplôme d'ingénieur), Computer Science, ENSICAEN, École Nationale Supérieure d'Ingénieurs de Caen (2011–2014)
- MAE coursework, IAE Caen (2012–2014), completed alongside the ENSICAEN engineering apprenticeship. Scheduling conflicts prevented attendance at most MAE exams; no degree awarded
- DUT, Electrical Engineering & Industrial Computing, Université de Caen (2009–2011)

LANGUAGES

English (fluent) · French (native)

CURRENTLY PURSUING

AWS Certified Solutions Architect (Associate, then Professional); FinOps Certified Practitioner (FinOps Foundation); an AI-for-executives programme (AI governance and strategy).