

Steven Schwenke

Passionate Software Craftsmanship.

Steven Schwenke | Garßenhof 19 | 38259 Salzgitter

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Steven Schwenke CV

Management Summary

The passionate software craftsman Steven Schwenke has 15 years of experience in several roles of software development, mainly in the automotive industry. Technologically, he focuses on Java and AWS. Steven is a speaker, blogger, YouTuber and book author. Working in IT is Stevens vocation, which is why he is actively involved in many community activities.



General Information

- Born in 1984
- Living in Salzgitter, Niedersachsen, Germany
- Married, two children
- Languages: German (native, C2), English (fluent, C1)

Primary Strengths

My primary strengths are the combination of what I am capable of doing and what I would like to do:

- **Inspire** people for a given, clearly defined mission statement that fits my personal mission statement and thereby building a powerful team.
- **Share knowledge and experience** via talks and workshops that are tailored to the situation of the audience and orchestrated to fit the organizations goals.
- **Review, analyze and structure processes**, code and software architectures and support the implementation of an improved version.

Secondary Strengths

Although I am capable of doing the following tasks, as can be expected of a software craftsman with my experience, they are not the most efficient way of utilizing my strengths:

- **Quick, hardcore programming**, using the most recent technologies: Because of my focus on technical lead roles, I would need some time to get into the details of a new technology. I would rather support a team of developers in using new technologies, improving their methods and become a powerful team.
- **Focusing solely on one aspect** of software development like just business domain or just technical architecture: I successfully supported a number of customers in converting their abstract business vision into agile stories and technical tasks. While this is a very important task, my strengths lie in the combination and synergies of the various tasks of software craftsmanship.

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Work Experience

I have worked in the following projects.

Active Contributor to an Internal Strategic Working Group on Cloud Development

03/2025 – present

Business Management

My extensive experience with tender projects, cloud technology and our customers is used to initiate and develop strategic projects.

Design and Facilitation of AWS Training

06/2024 – present

Business Management

As an experienced AWS advocate in the company, I designed a 3-month training program for employees, including coordination with several departments and onboarding of other trainers as their lead trainer.

With more than 100 talks and 50 training sessions delivered, I enjoy building a longer training program that targets hundreds of developers.

Head of Editorial Team of Practice Group Cloud

12/2023 - present

Automotive

Together with three colleagues, I facilitate a regular multi-national department meeting to share cloud-related news, organise speakers for developer topics and moderate an open stage.

Similar to the organisation of the AWS Learner's Group, I enjoy evaluating the needs of a very diverse group of participants and maximize the value they get from their time invested in the meeting.

Organiser and Lead Speaker of AWS Learner's Group

03/2022 - present

Automotive

I created a company-internal group to enable developers of all departments to learn about AWS and prepare for official AWS certifications. This activity includes for example the onboarding of new members, coordination with departments and stakeholders, creating and updating a learning path, collecting and sharing experiences from customer projects and the certification process of developers, and multiplying the knowledge to several groups via talks, mentoring and written documentation.

Creating and leading developer communities is a common pattern for me, providing contact to interesting and motivated individuals and building on my natural organisation talent.

Bid and Proposal Projects

01/2022 – present

Business Management

Regularly, I lead and support diverse teams of developers, designers, architects and management in writing proposals for frame contracts or new projects for multiple client companies. This includes onboarding of all team members into the offer methodology, guiding the writing and editing process, coordination with all stakeholders (internally and customer) and pitching-, and onboarding workshops for the customer.

This further improved my writing skills that I am developing for years by writing my blog posts and books. Also, I learned how to quickly extract the most important aspects from the customers documents and lead a team to reach the derived goals.

Steven Schwenke

Passionate Software Craftsmanship.

Team Lead Software Defined Vehicle

08/2024 – 12/2024

Automotive

Leading a team of six developers, architects and business experts, I facilitated the creation of a proof of concept of a working software defined vehicle. The prototype was based on multiple Raspberry Pis connected to AWS, using AWS Greengrass and other supporting services, enabling the prototype to be updated over-the-air.

Implementing an AWS backend and integrating it with a Raspberry Pi - based environment gave me insights into new technologies like Vehicle Signal Specification (VSS), MQTT and CAN Bus.

AWS Partner Management

10/2023 - 12/2023

Business Management

In a team of four, I worked toward acquiring one of the AWS competencies.

Developing on the AWS platform for some years, I got the chance to gain more understanding of the AWS strategy, partner management and documentation about processes and methods.

Development Products Dashboard (Greenfield Product)

04/2023 - 10/2023

Product Development (Business Management)

Java 11, React, Spring Boot, Maven, Junit 5, ArchUnit, AWS (ECR, ECS, Lambda, Aurora, S3)

After conceptualizing the product vision of an internal dashboard for software development projects and pitching it successfully to the top management, I lead a team of six developers in implementing the product. I lead both the technical development as well as the progression of the domain logic.

This was the first project where I took on the role of product owner, which taught me a lot about creating a roadmap from a first vision to a deployment-ready product. Part of this task was to communicate my ideas to several stakeholders like the development team and the management.

Developer, Architect, Technical Team Lead, Product Owner

Vehicle Modification Tracking System (Greenfield)

03/2022 - 03/2023

Automotive

Java 11, React, Spring Boot, Maven, Junit 5, ArchUnit, AWS (ECR, ECS, Lambda, Aurora, S3)

Besides my customer projects, I was involved in writing offers to win new projects. After (again) winning one, I was tasked to set up a development team to implement the software system. Starting from the architecture I laid out in the offer, I lead the team of eight developers, leading to a very successful go-live not only for the targeted department, but also for other departments that were interested in the system later on.

One of the most important decisions I made quite early in this project was to transfer my task of setting up the AWS environment to a young colleague who wanted to learn more about AWS. Although I was looking forward to get some hands-on with this topic myself, the project benefited from this decision because I could focus on methods and processes. Being the main reviewer of the infrastructure code, I was at least passively involved in this detail.

Developer, Architect, Technical Team Lead

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Passionate Software Craftsmanship.

Business Consulting Company Strategy

07/2021 - 11/2021

Business Consulting (Automotive and Transportation)

Being generally interested in the business side of software development and having strong analytical and structural thinking qualified me for a non-development project. I joined a team of six business consultants in supporting a new customer in the automotive industry, implementing some big changes in their organization.

Although I was not the main consultant, I was in direct contact with many of the customers key roles, interviewing them and supporting building the overall picture.

Vehicle Configuration (Greenfield)

01/2019 - 03/2022

Automotive

Java 8 - 12, Angular 7 - 8, Spring Boot 2, Spring MVC, Spring Security, Spring Data, Spring HATEOAS, Axon 4, Pivotal Cloudfoundry, Continuous Deployment via ConcourseCI and Atlassian Bamboo, JUnit 5, ArchUnit, Java Test Containers, Maven, Docker

Over many years, I supported a team of nine to twelve developers in creating multiple modules for a new vehicle configuration system. Besides other colleagues, I was responsible for the technical design and implementation of the modules.

Many of my dearest memories of this time are the uncounted pair programming sessions and architectural discussions with experienced architects. In addition, I learned a lot about how to automate the deployment of our systems.

Developer, Architect, Technical Team Lead

Idea Management System (Greenfield Product)

03/2018 – 12/2018

Product Development (Business Management)

Java 8, Angular 6, Spring MVC, JUnit 5, Maven

Leading a team of four young software craftsmen still in their apprenticeship, I was responsible for the technical design, implementation and timely delivery of a new internal idea management product.

Having worked with colleagues ranging from young apprentices to experienced architects, it was a great time working with coworkers still at the beginning of their career. At the end of the project, I was told that my team colleagues benefited from the many little discussions, pair programming sessions and code reviews we had. Again I realized that working in the IT industry for a couple of years builds up a lot of knowledge, even if you don't realize it.

Developer, Architect, Technical Team Lead

JavaFX Framework Development

01/2016 – 02/2018

Automotive

JavaFX

Besides my other projects, I was involved in the development of a JavaFX based framework that was used in a number of projects.

Although I was not a main developer of the framework, I learned a lot about the communication involved in getting all the projects on board that used the framework.

Developer, Architect

Planning Tool for Global Vehicle Production (Greenfield)

01/2016 – 02/2018

Automotive

Java 8, JavaFX, Spring MVC 4.2, Spring Data 1.9, Hibernate 4.3, Liquibase 3.4, HSQLDB 2.3, Oracle 11g DB, Tomcat 8 Server, Continuous Deployment via Atlassian Stack (JIRA, Bamboo, Stash), Degraph 0.1.2, JUnit 4, JUnit 5, Maven

After gathering much knowledge in the business domain of the customers planning systems, I lead a team of seven developers in creating a completely new software system for this task. In tight cooperation with the customer, we developed a new approach to the problem. I took responsibility for the technical design and the implementation of the system.

As this was the first team lead role for me, my daily work shifted towards reviews, pair programming, planning and moderating decision processes and communication with several stakeholders. The challenge of managing so many different tasks in parallel increased my interest in self management and productivity. Executing many one-on-ones with my team members over two years, I saw the importance of what is known as "soft skills". However, I tend to call it "catalyst skills" because they can be the key to a successful team.

Developer, Architect, Technical Team Lead, partially Scrum Master

Planning Tool for Global Vehicle Production (Legacy)

04/2015 – 12/2015

Automotive

Java 6, Java 7, Java Swing Rich Client, Websphere, Ant, Maven

While completely rewriting the former project, I learned a lot about how to deal with legacy code that is less structured and untested. I used this experience in supporting a team of four to add features to an even older codebase, partially modernizing it.

I studied new methods about how to deal with old codebases such as the Mikado Method and the Golden Record Pattern and began teaching about those in workshops like legacy code retreats.

Developer with supporting architectural tasks

Controlling Tool Module

01/2013 - 03/2015

Automotive

Java 7, Java 8, Spring MVC, JavaFX, Oracle database, Hibernate, Java Swing, Maven

After a brief onboarding, I took the lead in developing one of the modules of the controlling tool I worked in for the last six months. In close cooperation with the customer, I developed features as a full stack developer while coordinating with other teams to ensure a smooth integration.

The main challenge was a complete rewrite of the application from Java Swing to JavaFX. Even years later, I was known as someone who actually enjoyed working in a legacy codebase because of all the possibilities to enhance it while keeping it running.

Developer

Steven Schwenke

Passionate Software Craftsmanship.

Controlling Tool

07/2012 - 12/2012

Automotive

Java 6, Spring MVC, Oracle database, Hibernate, Java Swing, Ant

After joining a new company, I supported a team of ten developers who worked on an internal management software comprised of a number of modules, built on a common framework.

Because the development team was located on-site, I learned a lot about agile processes in direct contact with the customer.

Developer

Logistics Calculation Tool

04/2011 - 06/2012

Automotive

Java, Java Script, Spring MVC, Oracle database, Hibernate, ExtJS 3, ExtJS 4

As my first real project, I joined a team of four developers to develop a logistics calculation tool for a big German car manufacturer.

In my first real software development project, I learned a lot about the work of a development team that was also responsible for deploying the application on-site. On the technical side, I deepening my knowledge in Java, learned Java Script and the frontend framework ExtJS.

Developer

Employers

Steven Schwenke Solutions (Freelancer)

09/2020 - today

1

Remote

msg systems ag

07/2012 - today

10,000

Wolfsburg, Brunswick, Remote

LINEAS Informationstechnik GmbH

04/2011 - 06/2012

130

Brunswick

Volkswagen AG (Internship)

03/2010 - 02/2011

660,000

Wolfsburg

Sirenen - Bewusste Sicherheit (Freelancer)

09/2009 - 08/2011

1







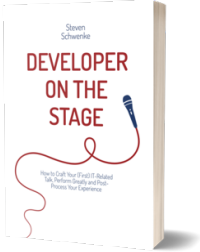
Magdeburg

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Projects

This is a list of some of my private side projects.

 <p>Steven Schwenke My Name is Steven Schwenke. I am a passionate software craftsman and love to share my experiences.</p> 	<p>My personal website offers information about myself and my projects as well as a blog I write since 2008. I also keep track of the 200+ events I participated in as a speaker or organizer.</p> <p>https://stevenschwenke.de</p>
 	<p>I founded the online community event series HackTalk (since 2025: "Tech Dev Circle") more than a decade ago. Every month, I organize talks about technical topics like programming languages and frameworks, keyboard building and solar power.</p> <p>https://hacktalk.de https://techdevcircle.de</p>
 <p>Die Plattform der IT-Community Braunschweigs.</p>	<p>I'm a founding member of the board of directors of IT Hub e.V. We are a non-profit organization that supports the IT community in Brunswick, Germany.</p> <p>https://www.ithubbs.de</p>
 <p>Tech2Talk</p>	<p>Being one of my recent projects, Tech2Talk is a community project to support sharing knowledge and experience in the IT industry by giving talks and workshops.</p> <p>https://tech2talk.de</p>
	<p>My book Developer on the Stage guides developers through their very first talk as a developer. It helps them find the right idea, structure their thoughts, and build a talk that is both instructive and reflects their individual experiences. They will learn about the different types of conferences and talks as well as how to get a speaking slot at an event that supports their first talk.</p> <p>https://developeronthestage.com</p>

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Education

Master of Computer Science

2011

Otto-von-Guericke University
Magdeburg, Germany

Grade: 1.5

Abitur (Equivalent to A-Levels/High School Diploma)

2004

Schönebeck, Germany

Grade: 1.9

Work Preferences

My working environment should fit to a small but important set of preferences:

- To maintain my high productivity levels, I prefer using an **Apple** computer, such as a MacBook.
- While occasional travel is manageable, a **remote-first** work arrangement is essential for me to support my family.
- **Flexible working hours** enable me to focus optimally during my peak concentration times.