

# Alberto “ohiaia” Falchi

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## Who Am I

Over two decades in software development have seen me called many things: Programmer, Developer, Engineer, FullStack, Backender, DevOps, SRE, Team Lead, Mentor, Head of Technology, Project Manager, and Founder. At heart, I'm simply a deeply tech-passionate individual.

My journey began as the "odd kid who preferred coding over playing games" – ask me about my first deadline and you won't be disappointed! Across Italy, Spain, and Australia, I've embraced a wide range of roles, relishing every step of my growth. Ultimately, I'm a problem solver, a technology explorer, a "Software WhatEver," driven by the goal of helping teams tackle challenges and build the best possible solutions. I thrive on anticipating trends and constantly evolving my skills. My biggest failures have always stemmed from not adhering to my core values, finding excuses rather than valid reasons for deviation.

My leadership philosophy champions teamwork, active mentoring, and leading by example. This often means creating optimal conditions for teammates, offering a helping hand, and facilitating their learning. I believe a good leader is hands-on, diving into code for PoCs, testing, or complex challenges. I relish "fighting dragons in different dungeons" and am dedicated to fostering my team's growth and continuous learning, as a leader's value is truly reflected in the strength of their weakest team members and the collective code produced.

I've proudly introduced and sustained best practices like Test-Driven Development (TDD) and Continuous Integration/Continuous Deployment (CI/CD) throughout my career. I understood their long-term value for quality and efficiency, even when initial implementation required extra effort, advocating for the significant gains they offer. I also have a proven track record of positive interactions with C-suite members and can effectively manage project budgeting and planning, even stepping into combined Project Manager and Tech Lead roles when necessary.

I don't have a single favorite programming language; I have many dearest! My natural curiosity guides me to select the most appropriate technologies for each problem. I'm passionate about adopting the best available technologies and approaches, provided they are fit-for-purpose and sufficiently mature. My creativity and lateral thinking, combined with a tech-enthusiastic and proactive attitude, consistently lead me to explore multiple and complementary solutions.

My career showcases an excellent track record of working effectively both alongside and within strong engineering teams, demonstrating optimal resource and budget planning in both in-person and fully remote environments. I find immense satisfaction in solving complex problems and I am currently eager for my next "real new challenge," aiming to further focus on engineering, mentoring, growing, and leading brilliant technology teams. My goal is to steer and navigate together to achieve goals safely and reasonably, while contributing to a solid and exciting product roadmap.

## Some Key Skills

I like to have a pretty decent grasp of many technologies and methodologies crucial for today's software development and operations. On top of that add that while defining and evolving complex software architectures I keep my focus on scalability, maintainability, security, and performance.

That's why my expertise has to span a good range of tools and platforms. Among the following you will find what I feel more comfortable and really happy to work with my current and next career/project.

### Containerization and Orchestration:

- **Docker:** I have extensive experience in containerizing applications across development, testing, and production environments, optimizing Docker images for size and security, and managing the full container lifecycle. My strong familiarity with Docker in day-to-day production environments was solidified at VRT Systems and consistently applied in subsequent projects.
- **Kubernetes:** I possess a solid understanding of deploying, managing, and scaling containerized applications using Kubernetes, including K8s on AWS (EKS or self-managed). My expertise covers service discovery, load balancing, and configuration management within a Kubernetes ecosystem, especially for backend service deployment.
- **Podman:** I'm also familiar with Podman as a daemonless container engine and am keen to explore its use cases for enhanced security and OCI compliance.

I advocate for selecting the most appropriate tools for each project, understanding that not every application needs a Kubernetes engine under the hood. That's why my approach focuses on solutions that are effective for current needs and adaptable for future changes.

### Technical Environment & Support Tools:

- **Operating Systems:** Deep knowledge of Linux (Debian/Ubuntu, CentOS/RHEL) and Unix.
- **Cloud Platforms:** Quite used in deploying and managing applications on AWS (including migrations to K8s) and GCP. Knowledgeable in Azure, Oracle Cloud and IBM (shame on me!)
- **Infrastructure as Code & Automation:** Experienced with Ansible for production automation and configuration management, and actively developing proficiency in Terraform.
- **CI/CD and Automation:** I am proficient in designing and implementing CI/CD pipelines for automated build, testing, and deployment and I have extensive experience in scripting for automation tasks (using GitlabCI for example).
- **Monitoring, Logging, and Observability:** Grafana, ELK stack, Prometheus but even Sentry and Keealived are no strangers to me. During these years I have gained experience in setting up and using monitoring and alerting tools to ensure system health and proactive incident detection. I have a decent understanding of Service Level Indicators (SLI), Service Level Objectives (SLO), and error budgets.

### Programming, Scripting, DB and some other nice things:

- Through time I built an extensive experience in complex backend applications, RESTful APIs, and microservices with **Python** with *Django* (gladly tweaking with *Celery* ) and *Flask*; Recently extended my knowledge to *MicroPython* in the ESP wonderful world and I am looking forward to an excuse to apply my skills to *FastAPI* too!
- While I've enjoyed dabbling with **Go (Golang)**, I haven't had the chance to use it as extensively as I would have liked.

- I have acquired expert-level scripting for system administration, automation, and operational tasks on Linux/Unix with **Bash**... because if you have to do it more than 3 times by hand you have to write an automation unless you are NOT lazy enough!
- Also I am actively exploring for performance and memory safety in systems programming with **Rust** and had some fair exposure to **C++** both in embedded projects as in a telemetry project.
- Someone says **Databases**? I am proficient with **SQL** (*PostgreSQL, MySQL, Oracle*) and **NoSQL** (*Redis, InfluxDB, MongoDB*) databases.
- **Queues**? I usually prefer *mqtt (mosquitto)* over *Kafka*.
- **BigData Pipeline**? I loved *Databricks* and still look with suspicion and resentment at *Spark*!

## Leadership & Project Management:

- **Team Leadership & Mentoring:** I excel at leading, nurturing, and mentoring development teams (up to 15 members), cultivating an environment of collaboration and continuous learning.
- **Technical Project Direction:** I am adept at providing technical direction for diverse projects, ensuring they align with business objectives and deliver high-quality solutions.
- **Project Management & Planning:** I possess strong experience in managing software projects, including planning, budget oversight (as needed), and effective collaboration with other project managers.
- **Agile Methodologies:** I have in-depth knowledge and practical application of Agile methodologies throughout the development lifecycle.
- **Best Practices Implementation:** I champion and integrate best practices such as Test-Driven Development (TDD), Behavior-Driven Development (BDD), code reviews, Continuous Integration/Continuous Deployment (CI/CD), and QA integration within the software development lifecycle.
- **Product Roadmap Definition:** I actively partner with product teams and other stakeholders to formulate ambitious yet achievable technology and product roadmaps.
- **Communication & Stakeholder Management:** I demonstrate excellent communication skills and a proven track record of effectively engaging with C-suite executives and other crucial stakeholders.

## Languages

- **Italian:** Native
- **English:** C1/C2 (Advanced/Professionally Proficient)
- **Spanish:** C2 (Fluent/Bilingual)
- **Klingon:** A0 (the basic to fake a salute and avoid being condemned to Rura Penthe. Qapla!)

## Professional Experiences

### Founder - d0m0b, Sassari, Italy (June 2024 - Present)

I am currently developing an exciting new project: an "Advanced Inmotic System". I have been conceptualizing this system for years, driven by its potential to help people and make a positive impact. While the initial motivation was personal utility, interest in the project quickly expanded. Several individuals have expressed a desire to implement it in their facilities or resell it within their networks. The project has grown rapidly, and certain components are currently undergoing the patent process. From a technological and architectural perspective, I believe all aspects are open for discussion among fellow enthusiasts.

Currently, the project consumes almost none of my time as we are in the data collection phase, preparing for both phase 2 (by the end of 2025) and even anticipating phase 3 (q1 and q2 in 2026). I expect my personal effort to remain minimal, requiring only a few hours per week during these upcoming stages.

Having a startUp to bring to life, with the people you trust, is something everybody should be able to try in their life. It's full of surprises, errors and problems. You ride the emotions roller coaster every day.

### Internal Project & Team Manager - ItsProdigy, Full Remote, Italy (June 2023 - Feb 2024)

At ItsProdigy, I've been involved in technical team selection, project and client management, and providing technical assistance (especially in DevOps and development best practices) to the team.

Nice, fast pacing experience. Sometimes stressful but in a thrilling and nice way. Working with a nice team and a Boss eager to help in any way possible!

### Head of Technology – OfCourseMe, Full Remote, Italy (August 2021 – June 2022)

I led and grew the tech team, focusing on improving engineering practices and managing hiring. My responsibilities included consolidating and evolving the e-learning platform's architecture, prioritizing security, compliance, performance, and scalability of backend services.

I managed API functionalities, oversaw the overall solution architecture (including a large crawler farm-factory), and defined and implemented development best practices, including CI/CD pipelines and Infrastructure as Code, to boost efficiency and reliability.

I also worked closely with the Head of Product to shape an ambitious product roadmap, balancing new features with crucial technical improvements, refactoring, and bug fixes to ensure long-term system health.

Frankly? I basically was invited to ride with unicorns and enjoyed every second of it! The founders are now two of the dearest people I can ask for their opinion, seeing their experience with the startUp life and real successful exit.

### Team Tech Lead – Abika SRL (Abinsula Group), Sassari, Italy (Feb 2018 – July 2021)

I provided technical direction and leadership for numerous projects across various domains (Automotive, Sports, Precision Farming, Car Sharing), with a strong focus on backend components and system integration. I also mentored and continuously trained team members, fostering technical excellence and collaborative problem-solving. When needed, I actively contributed as DevOps and Senior Software Engineer to backend development, ensuring robust design and implementation.

A great work environment even for a consulting agency in Italy with 3 different locations (each in a different city) in Italy and 1 in Barcelona.

## **Team Tech Lead / Senior Full Stack & DevOps – DSTIL, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia (July 2017 – December 2017)**

Here, I led and managed remote teams (3-8 members ... great minds and wonderful people) on "Data Science as a Service" projects, taking on hybrid roles including Senior Full Stack, DevOps, and Project/Product management as R&D demands from you to do! I designed and implemented scalable backend architectures, fought dragons like Apache Mesos and Spark to then later migrate to Kubernetes (K8s) on AWS (with kops), utilizing Docker to containerize Java and Python libraries for distribution, ensuring consistency and portability.

I was also responsible for solution definition, architecture (mainly backend), documentation, and QA for new projects, emphasizing a holistic approach to software delivery.

It felt like a playground for nerds full of extraordinary people (management too!) with a special attachment to bring to life something useful and elegant on the technical side.

## **Senior Software Engineer – VRT Systems, Brisbane, Australia (Nov 2016 – April 2017)**

As a Senior Full Stack Engineer, I contributed to developing IoT software applications for remote control and monitoring, with a focus on backend components. I gained significant hands-on experience with Docker in daily production environments, managing the lifecycle of containers for backend services.

Exciting and productive experience that has left me with great memories. So great it's the first one these days that leaves me also the sour flavours in my mouth while I think I actually would love to be back in Oz.

## **Senior Full Stack Developer – Common Code, Melbourne, Australia (July 2016 – November 2016)**

In an Agile environment, I developed and strengthened my Python and Django skills while working on complex web applications. I gained practical experience using Ansible in production for configuration management and automation, extending beyond previous use with Vagrant, and actively participated in knowledge sharing within the team in their vibrant and warm team.

Honestly: it has been a blast! The only regret beside the end of the experience itself was that we did not have the time to share a surf experience together as we planned.

### **Previous Roles:**

- *Senior Full Stack Developer – MULESQL @ AENA, Fuerteventura Airport, Spain (April 2014 – November 2015):* After the best training ever from the AENA engineer, I had the pleasure to lead and mentor a small development team, introduced best practices like Test-Driven Development (TDD), and developed internal IoT solutions focusing on backend components.
- *Full Stack Software Engineer (Freelancer), Spain (March 2008 – February 2014):* I developed my own personal framework in PHP focusing on the MVC pattern for projects with specific client requirements, managing the entire development cycle and learning the critical benefits of version control. I then started transitioning to Python and Django.
- *Full Stack Developer – University of Sassari, Italy (September 2005 – February 2008):* I gained foundational full-stack experience with Java, PHP, Oracle and MySQL databases, and learned deployment skills on UNIX systems.

## Teaching & Training Experiences

### IT Trainer - Youth We Trust, Sassari, Italy (November 2023 - April 2025)

I've had several opportunities to share my knowledge and mentor others, both in formal and informal settings. Since November 2023, I've been a **IT Trainer for the In Youth We Trust project in Sassari**, where I teach high school students about responsible online data sharing, how to use Google's Office suite (basic to advanced), creating responsible social media content, an introduction to AI tools, basic computer hardware and software, and even how to build simple web pages. I've also had the chance to be a **Lecturer/Speaker for GULMH in Nuoro** (May 2023, April 2019, December 2018, October 2018), covering topics like Free and Open Source Software, introducing Artificial Intelligence with hands-on activities, and discussing Linux and programming.

My passion for teaching also extends to mentoring: I was a **Mentor and Tutor for NodeGirls in Brisbane, Australia** (August 2017), where it has been my honor to help introduce women to programming, and I've provided continuous **Mentoring and Training** to team members in my Team Tech Lead roles at both Abika SRL and DSTIL.

And then I would like to mention also I gave a talk on AI and its development at **Rosadigitale in Alghero** (March 2019) and a conference on the differences between callbacks, promises, and ASYNC/AWAIT for **BrisJS in Brisbane, Australia** (July 2017).