

Mark Wickens

full-stack engineer / tech lead / manager / agile / security

solutions@agilemindswork.uk

07917 653012

Windermere, UK

urbancamo.github.io

Operating in the Legal, FinTech, Insurance & Utilities space I've held purely technical, team leader and engineering manager roles - all fully remote and spanning start-ups to global multinationals.

✓ AI ✓ Tech Lead ✓ Full Stack ✓ Typescript ✓ Manager ✓ Java ✓ Security ✓ Agile
✓ HTML5 ✓ CSS3 ✓ Postgres ✓ AWS ✓ Azure ✓ GCP ✓ Docker ✓ SCCS

First and foremost a hands-on software engineer, I thrive on designing, building and re-engineering robust, secure systems – with security built in from the ground-up – and am equally at home leading and managing the teams that deliver them, supporting and hiring engineers and providing mentoring and coaching in software development best practices. I have fully embraced AI-assisted, agentic software engineering using Claude Code, harnessing it across my work while upholding the same rigorous engineering best practices. Experienced in the challenges of both Start-up fluidity and Digital Transformation, re-engineering monolithic application stacks into cloud-centric systems & services. Able to balance deep technical delivery with the complexities of management, including supporting and maintaining business critical systems.

Extensive current development experience in Java, Typescript, C# and Scala – increasingly delivered through Claude Code-driven workflows – and using several cloud platforms including Amazon AWS, Google Cloud Platform (GCP) and Microsoft Azure, across a broad cross-section of industries, including Legal, FinTech, Insurance, Defence, 24/7 Electricity Trading, Graphical Information Systems, Call Centre applications and Government CMS.

Contact Technical Lead (Vue/Typescript/C#)

08/2025 – 06/2026

Peppercorn.ai

Delivering a conversational-first insurance platform that automates sales, servicing, and underwriting – driving efficiency, growth, improved risk outcomes, and scalable customer acquisition to maximise revenue per employee. Utilising Claude Code for full AI/Agentic development and rapid deployment whilst always applying software engineering best practices.

- ▶ Re-engineered GUI-centric workflow tools with a custom DSL, leveraging AI to implement complex workflows.
- ▶ Introduced AI development best practices, boosting engineering efficiency and capability.
- ▶ Developed complex API integrations including location-based services and underwriting platforms.
- ▶ Designing custom front-end Vue/Typescript components with C# based backend functionality.
- ▶ Scalable Azure infrastructure, rapidly onboarding new customers and supporting business growth.
- ▶ Data analytics platform using Power BI, delivering actionable customer insights and decision-making metrics.

Technical Lead (React/Typescript/OpenAI)

12/2024 – 06/2025

Cliobooks.ai

Productionised and enhanced an MVP AI-powered book authoring platform built with React.js, TypeScript, Node.js, Prisma ORM, and patented OpenAI integration. Adopted AI-assisted development to accelerate feature delivery, keeping engineering judgement and code review firmly in the loop. Led product development across functional, operational, and developmental domains in close partnership with the founder and product manager.

- ▶ Streamlined client onboarding, enhanced AI prompt generation, and automated author biography creation.
- ▶ Hardened operations with a robust backup strategy, structured logging, real-time alerting, and system auditing.
- ▶ Decomposed business requirements into user stories with clear acceptance criteria, enabling precise estimation and agile delivery.

Contract Senior Software Engineer (Java/Spring/Azure)

06/2024 – 11/2024

Hansard Global PLC

Sole responsibility for the timely migration of Hansard's £5m/month regular credit card collection service from Chase to Worldpay, delivering an Azure-based microservice built on Spring 3 and Java 21 and engineered for resilience and security. Used AI-assisted coding tools to speed up delivery, applied hand-in-hand with disciplined, test-driven engineering to safeguard quality.

- ▶ Secured the service behind Azure APIM, integrating RESTful APIs, queues, blob storage, and SFTP connections.
- ▶ Applied multithreading to satisfy demanding performance constraints.
- ▶ Comprehensive test-driven development using Mockito & Selenium, with card-provider failover engineered for the pilot phase.

Senior Principal Engineer (Scala/Akka & Typescript/React)

06/2022 – 05/2024

Aturna LLC

Revolutionising affordable US legal services through technology, delivering a client-facing platform that generates legally binding documents – Health Care Proxies, Powers of Attorney, and Wills – with integrated law firms providing advice and notary facilities. Built with a React/TypeScript frontend and Scala/Akka backend on Google Cloud Platform, using RESTful APIs, Terraform, CircleCI, Postgres, and Firebase. Drew on AI-assisted coding to lift productivity across the codebase, while retaining full engineering control over architecture and quality.

- ▶ Re-engineered document generation into a resilient, scalable, performant, and maintainable platform.
- ▶ Re-implemented signup/login in-house and integrated social login via Google & Facebook.
- ▶ Expanded services to cover all US states, navigating the legal nuances of each region.
- ▶ Instrumental in the successful rebranding of the online legal system.

Software Development Manager (UK)

06/2008 – 06/2022

Hansard Global plc

Fully remote Software Development Manager for over 13 years, leading a UK and Isle of Man team of seasoned professionals across a suite of award-winning secure online applications and complex back-end systems serving 60,000+ clients and brokers self-managing more than \$1.3 billion of invested assets. Split between hands-on development and line management – appraisals, conduct, mentoring, and team communications – reporting to the Director of IT on prioritisation, estimates, progress, and risk, while leading a whole-system digital transformation to Azure Cloud.

- ▶ Digital transformation of n-tier Java applications into a cloud-centric architecture using microservices, event-driven services, bus-based communication, and secure API management.
- ▶ Developed and maintained numerous business-critical online and internal systems.
- ▶ Security-centric approach using client & server validation, data sanitisation & escaping (OWASP).
- ▶ Introduced Scrum Agile ceremonies to improve delivery through inspect-and-adapt cycles.
- ▶ Systems won 'Best Digital Proposition' at the International Advisor Global Financial Services Awards '19.
- ▶ Personally committed over 1 million lines of code.

Senior Java Software Engineer/Full Stack

Full-stack senior engineer in the in-house IT team, developing and maintaining secure online systems and internal applications and giving the business a competitive advantage through responsive delivery. Tech stack: Enterprise Java, Spring Boot, Hibernate, HTML5, CSS3, JSTL, JSP, XML, jQuery, Thymeleaf, XSL/XSLT, and Oracle 12c SQL; DevOps with Jenkins, Maven, and Azure.

- ▶ As a member of the security team, applied OWASP-based secure coding, rigorous code reviews, and penetration testing across all internal and external systems.
- ▶ Delivered online signup and self-service authentication, the internal user-management system, and a comprehensive document-processing system.

Education

1st Class BSc. (Hons) Computer Science & Electronic Engineering, University of Hertfordshire

Open-Source Projects

Github Repo: <https://github.com/urbancamo>

ADIF Processor – visualize radio contacts on Google Earth. Application: <https://www.adif.uk/>

Java API for KML: <https://github.com/urbancamo/javaapiforkml>.

WOTA Data, WOTA Mapping, WOTA Spotter applications (Typescript/Vue/Node.js)