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Professional Summary

Senior technology leader with 22+ years of experience in global, regulated financial environments, combining deep engineering expertise with strong exposure to technology risk, governance, and control frameworks.

Proven track record leading enterprise platforms, cloud transformation, and large-scale integrations while ensuring control effectiveness, operational resilience, and alignment with compliance and risk requirements.

Experienced in working with senior stakeholders to assess technology risks, strengthen governance processes, and improve system reliability across complex, distributed environments.

Key Achievements

- Low-latency & high-throughput systems: FIX connectivity, exchange certification, performance & resilience
- Platform strategy & transformation: integrated platform unification, CI/CD, observability, automation-first delivery
- Cross-functional leadership: Product, Architecture, Client Services, and Executive stakeholders
- Introduced Agile practices and improved delivery cadence for 80+ financial products.
- Implemented Microsoft Azure services and integrated D365 with Power BI for real-time analytics.
- Speaker at international IT conferences and trainer for Agile and QA methodologies.

Education

- PhD in Software Security – Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca (2006-2009)
- Master in Formal Methods Programming – Babes-Bolyai University (2005-2006)
- Bachelor in Computer Science – Babes-Bolyai University (2001-2005)
- Bachelor in Accounting and IT Management – Babes-Bolyai University (2001-2006)
- Professional Trainer and Coach (2018)

Technology Risk & Governance Experience

- Oversight of IT change management processes aligned with control frameworks
- Ensuring compliance and risk control adherence across enterprise applications
- Exposure to security assessments, vulnerability management tools, and SBOM initiatives
- Participation in vendor due diligence and third-party risk evaluation
- Collaboration with security, compliance, and audit stakeholders
- Experience in regulated financial environments (trading, reporting, compliance obligations)

Professional Experience

September 2025 – Present - Business Applications Manager at Ascom

- Lead a high-performing team of **Solution Architects** each responsible for 4-5 individuals, indirectly coordinating **40–50 internal and external resources**, driving enterprise-wide architecture initiatives and ensuring alignment between IT capabilities and evolving business strategies.
- Partner with senior stakeholders to **define and execute IT strategy**, co-developing the **global investment roadmap** aligned with digital transformation priorities and business growth objectives.
- Oversee the **end-to-end lifecycle of enterprise applications**, including design, delivery, integration, and continuous improvement, ensuring scalability, resilience, and cost efficiency.
- Drive **data platform modernization** by leading the adoption of Microsoft Azure services (**Data Factory, Synapse, Azure SQL, Blob Storage**), enabling advanced analytics, improved data integration, and enhanced reporting capabilities.
- Govern IT change management processes, ensuring **auditability, control compliance, and adherence to risk frameworks**
- Maintain operational excellence **through control monitoring, incident governance, and continuous risk mitigation**
- Lead the integration and evolution of **Microsoft Dynamics 365 (Finance & Operations) and legacy AX environments**, enhancing financial processes and operational efficiency.
- Delivered **real-time analytics capabilities** by integrating D365 with Azure services and Power BI, enabling data-driven decision-making through executive dashboards and KPI frameworks.
- Spearhead **Power BI adoption at global level**, standardizing reporting and delivering actionable insights to senior leadership and operational teams.
- Drive **tooling and platform adoption**, fostering innovation and enabling digital enablement across the organization.
- Manage **financial planning and cost center performance**, ensuring effective budget utilization and value-driven IT investments.
- Lead **strategic vendor management**, aligning external partners with internal goals to maximize delivery outcomes and innovation capacity, focusing on **third-party risk, security posture, and compliance alignment**.
- Facilitated **team development and continuous improvement**, building leadership capabilities and driving high engagement across distributed teams.

Key initiatives & achievements

- Led **migration from Jira Data Center (on-prem) to Jira Cloud**, improving scalability, maintainability, and global accessibility.
- Delivered key **enterprise integrations**, including:
 - Jira ↔ ServiceNow
 - Jira ↔ Telia Now
 - Productboard ↔ Jira
 - Copilot integration with Jira thru Microsoft Graph Connector for Jira Data Center
- Enabled **AI-driven transformation** initiatives:
 - Integration of **Microsoft Copilot** into workflows
 - Development of **Agentic AI solutions** using Claude (Anthropic) and Copilot
- Strengthened enterprise ecosystem interoperability through **API-driven integrations and automation**

July 2023 – August 2025 - Development Director at Broadridge

Leadership Scope: Managed teams of 25+ engineers (Dev, QA, Leads) across Romania, US, India, Philippines; domains: FIX connectivity, onboarding/monitoring service, connectivity testing & exchange certification; monthly multi-product release cadence (80+ products).

Key responsibilities:

- Owned roadmap governance and delivery for integrated trading platforms, evolving a unified multi-region architecture to accelerate client onboarding and reduce time-to-market.
- Directed engineering for low-latency FIX-based connectivity and certification products, enabling scalable, multi-tenant deployments for Tier-1 banks and brokers.
- Established automation-first delivery (CI/CD, test pyramid, release checklists) to sustain a monthly cadence across 80+ financial products while safeguarding stability.
- Partnered with Product, Architecture, and TAMs to prioritize client/regulatory commitments and drive data-informed trade-offs.
- Led hiring, onboarding, and performance management; coached leads and senior ICs to raise engineering bar and operational readiness.
- Provided executive-level communication during incidents and change windows; improved MTTR through playbooks and observability enhancements.
- Led multiple products supporting client onboarding and monitoring services, delivering connectivity enrichment, customized releases, and platforms for connectivity testing and exchange market certification; improved UI/UX and drove a new multi-tenant architecture.
- Maintained and evolved integrated FIX connectivity platforms through regular support and patch releases, delivering a scalable, manageable core/node architecture used by financial institutions for configuration, monitoring, testing, and exchange certification.

March 2022 - July 2023 – Team Lead, Platform Delivery at Broadridge

Unify and lead all Integration Testing Teams (High Touch, Low Touch and Connectivity) into a single big team that manages integration testing across multiple environments.

Focus on automated platform deployment, improved automation testing on 3 different areas High Touch, Low Touch and Connectivity;

Visits on site to certain clients in order to clearly build the testing strategy specific to the them, using client environment, client preferences and client specific workflows;

I was part and helped on the most challenging project from BTCS history => unify all products into a single umbrella into a so called Integrated Standard Platform (ISP) that contains innovative structure, deployment and flexibility allowing us to easily maintain and deploy solutions to the clients;

November 2019 – July 2023 – QA Team Lead (Ullink acquired into Itiviti)

Drove the Automation initiatives across multiple Itiviti Products front-end, back-end and connectivity.

Organized meetups for UI Automation using JavaScript and Fla UI with focus on sharing knowledge between different engineers, best practices and framework improvements;

Organized meetups for Server Side automation using Java with focus on CI/CD automation testing using Jenkins, Code Review Process;

Organized meetups on Connectivity testing with focus on automation workflows, client use-cases and continuous connectivity product delivery;

Improved integration testing processes, Continuous delivery, embraced code review process across all teams and individuals;

May 2018 - October 2019 – Senior QA Engineer at Itiviti

Continued working on different products with focus on Automation and Integration Testing.

Trade Reporting in compliance with the new EU Regulations;

Post Trade solutions delivery with focus on Middle Office, Commissions, Fees;

Automated Risk Check workflows and helped on defining and implementation of users and client restrictions;

CAT Reporting (consolidated audit trail) solution delivery for US Regulators - track all order and trading activity throughout the U.S. markets for listed equities and options;

March 2011 - May 2018 – QA Automation Engineer/QA Engineer at Ullink

Owned QA for High-Touch trading solutions; built smoke/performance automation and benchmarking to protect latency and throughput objectives.

Integrated test results with Jenkins, Kibana, Elastic; introduced risk-based testing and backlog hygiene for faster, safer releases.

Supported recruitment, onboarding, and mentoring to scale quality engineering practices.

Led QA efforts for High Touch and Low Touch Solutions, organizing team responsibilities and driving automation for smoke and performance testing.

Developed benchmarking techniques to measure application performance and proactively identified team risks, proposing mitigation plans.

Facilitated code reviews for test automation and improved best practices for internal tools and QA processes.

Maintained and optimized automated test suites, managed technical product backlogs, and enhanced manual and automated testing efficiency.

Utilized tools such as Spira, Jira, and Jenkins for test management, issue tracking, and CI/CD automation.

December 2021 - March 2022 - Internship Mentor at Broadridge

Main responsibilities:

Involved into recruitment, forming and training of a new Internship team;

Working closely with the HR team into organizing a new Internship program, presentations made to students, technical test preparation and participate to technical interview;

Once the new team was formed I started mentoring new members by teaching them about Agile and Scrum, Testing Tools, Release Process, GUI Automation using Javascript and C#, Business Knowledge on different products, Use Jira and learn how to raise quality bugs;

Form new QA Integration Team for High Touch solutions, build test plan and test strategy for key clients;

June 2019 - August 2019 IT Consultant, MUFG NY (via Ullink/Itiviti)

Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) is a leading Japanese bank holding company and global financial services provider.

Selected as a specialist consultant to upgrade and validate trading solutions for MUFG in New York.

Led integration testing and ensured seamless deployment of new Itiviti products in a mission-critical banking environment.

Delivered on-site training to client teams, enabling effective adoption and usage of advanced trading platforms.

Strengthening client relationships through hands-on expertise and direct support during a high-visibility international project.

September 2016 – now – Professional Trainer and Coach at Informal School of IT

Train people in the QA field by teaching using certified modules.

Organize programs as workshops putting emphasis on the practical and hands-on approach of the topics.

Teach scrum methodologies to IT Companies.

July 2006 – March 2011 – Escalation Engineer / Technical Support Engineer, Neverfail Group

Investigated and resolved complex issues on Microsoft server environments, including bug reporting, QA, security analysis, and log analysis.

Collaborated with support teams to troubleshoot and resolve customer server problems, both remotely and on-site.

Configured physical and virtual Windows servers, domain controllers, and various enterprise applications (Exchange, SQL, Blackberry, Lotus Domino).

Utilized advanced monitoring tools (Perfmon, Procmon, Poolmon) for performance analysis and diagnostics.

Delivered tailored solutions for critical clients, including on-site root cause analysis and remediation for major performance incidents (e.g., Abu Dhabi client).

Recommended and implemented server configurations, updates, and workarounds to ensure continuous availability and data protection.

Didactic & Training Activity

- Professional Trainer and Coach at Informal School of IT (September 2016 – present): teaching Software Testing / QA using certified modules, with a practical, hands-on workshop approach; delivering Scrum and Agile methodology training to IT companies.
- Internship Mentor at Broadridge (December 2021 – March 2022): designed and delivered a complete training program for a newly formed internship team, covering Agile and Scrum, testing tools, release processes, GUI automation with JavaScript and C#, and defect reporting; involved in recruitment, student presentations, technical test preparation, and technical interviews.
- Trainer and workshop organizer at international conferences (e.g., GUI testing workshop at Moscow Test Conference 2019).
- Organized recurring internal knowledge-sharing meetups on UI automation (JavaScript, FlaUI), server-side automation (Java, Jenkins CI/CD), and connectivity testing, focused on best practices and framework improvements.
- Delivered on-site professional training to client teams at MUFG New York (2019) for the adoption of advanced trading platforms.
- Certified Professional Trainer and Coach (2018).

Conference Participation & Speaking Engagements

- Speaker at DevTalks Bucharest 2024: <https://www.devtalks.ro/speakers/453-nicolae-oprean>
- Trainer and organizer of workshops at Moscow Test Conference 2019: <http://www.testconf.ru/2019/en/building-gui-testing/index.html>
- Speaker at Belgrade Testing Conference 2017: <https://bg-testconference.rs/speakers/>
- Speaker at Moscow Test Conference 2017: <http://www.testconf.ru/2017/>
- Co-Speaker at Codecamp Cluj-Napoca 2017: <http://cluj.codecamp.ro/>
- Speaker at TestCon Vilnius 2016: <http://www.testcon.lt/2016/>
- Speaker at Test Automation Days, June 23rd 2016, Rotterdam.
- Romanian Testing Conference – attended in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- Microsoft Academic Days – 16–18 November 2007, Poiana Brasov.
- Microsoft Conference – 5–6 December 2007, Opera Plaza Cluj-Napoca – TechNet presentation.
- Microsoft Days, Cluj-Napoca – October 2006 – presentation on Microsoft products.
- Information Security Expert Conference – 24–25 October 2007 – conference on informatics systems security.
- International Conference Competitiveness and European Integration – 26–27 October 2007 – presented the paper “Solution for Disaster Recovery, High Availability and Continuous Data Protection on Windows Servers”.

Languages

English (fluent); French (advanced); Italian (intermediate)

Activities & Interests

Passionate about technology leadership, Agile transformation, and building high-performing teams

Active industry speaker, mentor, and coach in software delivery and quality assurance

Enjoy organizing and participating in tech workshops, knowledge-sharing sessions, and innovation forums

Advocate for continuous learning, collaboration, and professional development

Hobbies: Volleyball, skiing, and board games