


# Jens Roland

Hands-on Cloud Architecture, Developer Productivity, Data & AI

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## EXPERIENCE

### Director of Engineering

### ZeroNorth A/S

JUNE 2022 - PRESENT

What I did:

- Led two of ZeroNorth's three core product development teams and the Developer Platform & Productivity team
- Designed and built a data processing system far exceeding its predecessor's operational parameters (auto-scaling, data freshness, reliability, observability, fault tolerance, etc.) while being ~10x cheaper to run
- Designed and built the ZN GenAI Platform, enabling developers to rapidly build and deploy LLM-based services
- Ran multiple critical 'tiger team' projects, whose successful deliveries were key to securing two of ZeroNorth's largest customers/partnerships

What I learned:

- Developer Productivity & Platform engineering
- Generative AI strategy & enablement: Amazon Bedrock, Anthropic, OpenAI Large Language Models
- GitHub CI/CD, some Kubernetes, Terraform, Golang

### Senior Cloud & Data Engineer RaySearch Laboratories

FEBRUARY 2020 - MAY 2022

What I did:

- Drastically improved developer productivity by developing a tool, 'RICK', for managing and automating the software development lifecycle across >50 codebases
- Developed a HIPAA-compliant and cost effective cloud data platform to serve both the SaaS applications and the Machine Learning department

What I learned:

- Operating in a highly regulated space (medtech)
- Python, Azure DevOps

### Lead Data Engineer / Architect

### Electrolux Group

JANUARY 2018 - JANUARY 2020

What I did:

- Architected Electrolux' global data lake platform for Business Intelligence and Data Science

## LEADERSHIP

- Technical leadership
- Developer productivity
- Strategy (Cloud, Data, AI)
- Lean & Agile
- Managing distributed teams

## TECHNOLOGY

- Cloud (AWS)
- Big Data & Analytics
- Generative AI / LLMs
- DevOps & Automation
- Web performance optimization
- APIs, Web Applications
- Scalable architecture
- HATEOAS

## PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- Python
- JavaScript
- PHP
- SQL
- C# (rusty)
- Java, Scala, Golang (basic)

## PUBLISHED (BOOKS / MAGAZINES)

Euro Jazz, political debate book, 2000

153 Artifacts from the future, on emerging technologies, 2005

Xpector Magazine issue #5, innovation quarterly, 2008 (editor)

## NATURAL LANGUAGES

- English (fluent)
- Danish (native)
- Swedish (conversational)

- Served as the senior technical member of the Global Cloud Strategy leadership group; was eventually asked to lead both the group and the multi-year cloud migration
- What I learned:
- Enterprise strategy, operations, stakeholder management
- Microsoft Azure, Databricks, Qlik, PowerBI, Apache Airflow

## Manager, Big Data & Advanced Analytics      Accenture

MAY 2017 - DECEMBER 2017

What I did:

- Worked with a major telco on GDPR strategy and technical solution architecture
- Worked with a large media company to design their cloud data platform

What I learned:

- Managing larger distributed teams
- Enterprise data warehousing

## Deputy Head of Development      AudienceProject

SEPTEMBER 2013 - MARCH 2017

What I did:

- Grew the R&D department from 2.5 to 8 people
- Advanced the AudienceReport ad tech platform into a market dominating technology used by global tech leaders, including YouTube (Google) and Facebook (Meta)
- Re-architected the solution from the ground up:
  - The new system scaled seamlessly as the company grew from 20M to more than 1B events/day
  - On-demand report generation, the main feature of the product, went from >25 minutes to ~7 seconds
  - Cloud costs went down by 80%
- Cut total cloud costs by 25-50x, saving >\$500k/month

What I learned:

- SaaS product development
- Cloud (AWS), Big Data & Data platform architecture
- Hadoop, Hive, Pig, PHP, Redis, a little Spark/Scala
- FinOps / Cloud cost optimization

## [Early career]

## Various

1999 - 2013

- Frontend Lead at Trendsales (2011-2013)
- Tech Lead at QXL (2009-2011)
- Visiting Researcher at Institute For The Future, Palo Alto, CA (2007)
- Chief Technology Analyst at Innovation Lab (2004-2008)
- Freelance web developer (1999-2009)

## INFLUENCES

- Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach, Russell/Norvig
- Don't Make Me Think, Steve Krug
- Lean Startup, Eric Ries
- Outliers, Malcolm Gladwell
- The Long Tail, Chris Anderson
- The Signal And The Noise, Nate Silver
- Joel Spolsky
- Martin Fowler
- Paul Graham
- 'Uncle' Bob Martin
- Yann LeCun

## HOBBIES

- Board games
- Buying ridiculous domain names ([locaiho.st](http://locaiho.st))
- Electronics (ask me about my DIY 1980s laptop)
- Hydroponic gardening
- Mechanical keyboards
- Neural networks
- Vintage tech (1900-1980s)
- Woodworking
- Writing

## EDUCATION

**B.Sc., Computer Science**

**University of Aarhus**

AUGUST 2003 - AUGUST 2007

GPA: 9.5. Thesis project: *Building a compiler for (a subset of) Java.*

**Matematisk Student**

**Rosborg Amtsgymnasium**

AUGUST 1997 - JULY 2000

GPA: 10.0. Final paper: *Proving the correctness of RSA.*