

Ivan Podtsebnev

CTO / Founding Engineer — AI-Native · 0 → 1 · Platform & Protocol

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SUMMARY

I ran an IT operation of **~90 people and a ~1 billion ₺/year budget** (≈\$30M/yr at 2013 rates) as an enterprise IT leader — then deliberately went hands-on for the Web3/AI frontier. AI now lets one person deliver what used to take a team: solo, I've built **Kovanex**, a ~47k-LOC self-hosted DevOps platform, plus a **complete AI stack from scratch** — a pure-Rust inference engine, a vector database, an MCP tool server, and an autonomous agent — and the **Intentional Internet (Web4)** protocol framework. I'm the CTO who is **also the entire early technical team**: strategy and budgets at the top, production code and architecture at the bottom.

SELECTED PROJECTS & PLATFORMS (SOLO 0 → 1)

Kovanex — *self-hosted DevOps platform · Go (~47k LOC) · kovanex.dev*

Full platform built single-handed: Git, CI/CD, Kanban, container registry, Secrets Vault (Shamir Secret Sharing), and an **MCP server (~20 tools) with native AI-agent integration** (Claude Code, Cursor) so agents operate the whole system through one tool API. Replaces a stack of managed SaaS. **Built solo in ~2 weeks, dogfooding itself** — developed inside Kovanex.

AI / LLM stack — *kovainfer · kovatensor · kovadb · kovagent*

A **pure-Rust LLM inference engine** (the vLLM/TGI layer, no llama.cpp/Ollama) with fused-forward optimization and quantized kernels for GPU-free edge; an embeddable **HNSW vector database** (RAG layer); and an **autonomous DevOps agent** (agentic brain + control plane + execution runner). The modern AI-infra stack, owned end to end.

Intentional Internet — Web4 — *protocol framework*

A four-layer protocol design (Identity / Graph / Topology / Economy) with a three-token economic model — original systems architecture for a decentralized, agent-native internet.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Head of IT Support Services / Chief Security Specialist — Mosenergo

2013 – 2016 · Moscow

National energy utility — IT operations and information security at enterprise scale.

- Owned an IT operation at the scale of **~90 people (≈10 direct + ~80 contractor)** and a **~1 billion ₺/year budget** (≈\$30M/yr at 2013 rates) — opex, equipment lifecycle and contractor procurement.
- Ran security across **4,000 workstations**: DLP, SIEM, McAfee web/mail filtering, anti-virus estate, and IT-service governance.
- Authored department regulations, job descriptions and FZ-223 procurement specifications; managed multi-vendor contractor delivery.

IT Director — Paragon Software Group

2007 – 2009 · Moscow

- Built the IT department and the company-wide IT strategy; owned IT budgeting, secure infrastructure, branch/regional office rollouts, and information-security programs (PKI, endpoint & server protection, network access control).

Head of IT Department — Mosoblgaz (Podolskmezhraigaz)

2012 – 2013 · Podolsk

- Led the Service Desk (in-house team + 5 contracting organizations); owned annual budget planning and core business systems (banking, 1C, Lotus Notes, AV/ICS).

Senior IT Manager — NIX Trade

1995 – 2007 · Moscow

- Built and ran the IT organization for 12 years — infrastructure, security, multi-site/branch buildouts, budgeting and team hiring. The foundation of two decades of scaling IT.

HANDS-ON ENGINEERING (2017 – PRESENT)

Independent DevOps/SRE for Web3 & fintech, still shipping production code. Recent, quantified wins: led a **cloud exit at -85% cost** (€18.7k → €2.75k/mo) for a high-traffic Web3 platform; root-caused a hot query from **2,500 ms → 0.8 ms** (~3,000×); built HA PostgreSQL/Patroni + Vault stacks load-tested to **11,000+ req/s** for a fintech Telegram Mini App (both clients confidential). Named work: **Ultron Foundation** (L1, 2023–present), **Dats**, **Amir Capital**, **Emirex/Emiswap**, **Snark Art**.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Build: Go, Rust, Python, C/C++, C#; distributed systems, protocol & data-model design, systems architecture

AI: LLM inference & serving, vector DB / RAG, MCP & agentic systems, LLMOps, AI-native engineering workflows

Platform & infra: Kubernetes, Proxmox, Terraform, Ansible, Docker; HA PostgreSQL/Patroni, ZFS/Ceph; Prometheus/Grafana/ELK; GitLab/GitHub CI/CD; AWS & GCP

Security: HashiCorp Vault, Shamir Secret Sharing, WAF/network hardening, DLP/SIEM, incident forensics

Web3: L1/L2 protocols, EVM & Solana, node/validator operations, exchange/DEX & custodial-wallet infrastructure

Leadership: P&L / budget ownership (~1B₽/yr, ≈\$30M/yr scale), team & contractor management, IT strategy, procurement, security governance

EDUCATION & LANGUAGES

Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MIPT) — MSc, Engineer-Physicist, Radio & Cybernetics, 1997

Languages: Russian (native) · English (full professional) · Serbian (working)