

ALMIR SARAJČIĆ

AI Coding-Agent Engineer · Elixir/Phoenix · Agent Harnesses, Guardrails & Developer Tooling

Kenya (UTC+3) · Remote worldwide, available September 2026

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My work is about making coding agents useful on real codebases: give them a plan, limit the ways they can go wrong, and check the result. I started writing software in 2012 and moved to Elixir in 2017. Before agents, I spent years working on CI, static analysis, and test infrastructure. I now use the same machinery to catch what agents get wrong. Models are good at producing plausible code; the surrounding system has to decide whether it belongs in production.

Founder of **Kogen**, an Elixir framework for coding agents, and of **Combobulate**, a product built end to end with it. Before that I ran a software agency for four years, owning delivery, technical direction, and the tooling layer that made the team fast.

EXPERIENCE

Founder — Optimum Tech, LLC

United States · Remote · Jan 2022 – Present

Founded and operate the company; pivoted from client services to owned AI developer products in 2025.

Kogen — AI coding-agent framework

May 2025 – Present

- Built an Elixir framework for coding agents. The human shapes the feature and defines what done looks like; Kogen runs implementation, testing, review, and rework without a person in the loop, and finishes with either a checked result or a clear reason it stopped.
- Structured planning ahead of implementation, model-facing rules, and deterministic checks wired into CI — the planning stage surfaces risks and infeasible approaches *before* any code is written.
- Shipped **Combobulate** (combobulate.dev) with Kogen: send it a Telegram message and it builds a website, deploys it, and connects a domain. Built the whole product with Kogen to see how the tooling held up outside a demo. In production with paid tiers.
- Applied Kogen to existing Phoenix codebases and to Kogen itself — the tooling now improves through its own workflows — and to a full rewrite prepared for open-source release.
- Ran hands-on comparative evaluation of AI developer tools across Claude Code, OpenAI Codex, and Cursor Agent: subagent orchestration, planning workflows, context and usage limits, and where each harness fails.
- Building toward paid products for solo entrepreneurs and small teams, with API-key-based support as the enterprise path.

Optimum BH — software development agency

Jan 2022 – Jan 2026

- Set technical direction and ran the agency end to end — delivery, team management, and code review, alongside the client-facing and commercial work.
- Built and maintained full-stack Elixir/Phoenix applications on the PETAL stack with PostgreSQL, for clients across news, media, and video production.
- Owned the shared tooling and CI/CD layer: compilation, formatting, static analysis, dependency and security auditing, migrations, and tests — plus zero-downtime deploys and per-PR preview environments on Fly.io.
- Released open source that outgrew the agency: **github_workflows_generator**, **optimum_credo** custom Credo checks, **phx.tools**, and **optimum_templates**.
- Productised the infrastructure work as **optimum_gen_infra**, a commercially licensed Mix archive, generating CI, Fly.io CD with preview/staging/production environments, health checks, and observability.
- Wrote and published the six-part *Elixir DevOps* series, filling a documented gap in the community's CI/CD material.
- Raised the team's standards through code review and mentoring; every developer I trained went on to a role at another company. Founded and edited the engineering blog — wrote most of its posts and edited the rest, coaching the team until their articles ran in Elixir Radar and ElixirWeekly, once as Radar's lead item.

Co-founder & Lead Developer — StoryDeck

Remote · Sep 2020 – 2024

- Hired to build a proof of concept in Elixir and Phoenix for a workflow platform for creators, storytellers, and marketers; took it through MVP to production and stayed on as co-founder and technical lead.

Independent Elixir Contractor

Remote · 2019 – Present

- 21 completed contracts and 4,500+ tracked hours at a **100% Job Success** rating, running alongside the agency and product work.
- Implemented **WPA3 support for Nerves on Raspberry Pi 4** — embedded Elixir at the firmware and networking layer (580+ hours).
- Long-running engagements including an IoT analytics platform for real-time production tracking (GlobalReader), replacing a legacy PHP service with Elixir services, and multi-year Elixir backend ownership for two further clients.

- **Backend Developer, Mukuru** · Oct 2016 – Feb 2020 · remote — pan-African remittances fintech. Implemented features in a large PHP application using DDD and TDD; improved and modernised legacy code.
- **Full-Stack Developer, Klika** · Apr 2015 – Oct 2016 · Sarajevo — outsourcing and consulting firm. Delivered client projects in Ruby on Rails and JavaScript.
- **Full-Stack Developer, Social Eddy** · Sep 2012 – Nov 2013 · remote — content marketing and social account management platform. PHP, MySQL, and JavaScript; third-party API integrations, analytics, and SQL query optimisation.

Working in software since 2012 across gaming, social media, real estate, finance, education, and news. Adopted Elixir in 2017; primary language since 2020. Bosnian (native), English (fluent).

SELECTED WORK

- **Kogen** · github.com/KogenAI/kogen — Elixir framework for coding agents: planning, hooks, deterministic checks, guardrails, and CI verification.
- **Combobulate** · combobulate.dev — AI service that builds and hosts websites from Telegram messages, handles domain setup, and returns a live URL. Built with Kogen; in production with paid tiers.
- **Skeptic.bot** · skeptic.bot — podcast research assistant built in Elixir and Phoenix LiveView: AI summarisation and search across hours of long-form audio.
- **phx.tools** · phx.tools — one-command development environment for Elixir and Phoenix on Linux and macOS. Installs the full toolchain and a working Phoenix setup from a single command.
- **github_workflows_generator** — write and maintain GitHub Actions workflows in Elixir instead of hand-edited YAML. Published on Hex.
- **optimum_credito** — custom Credo checks for Elixir projects: readability, test assertions, and LiveView patterns. Published on Hex.
- **cursor_rules** — reusable Elixir/Phoenix rules for Cursor; the early guardrails work that became Kogen.
- **ElixirDrops** · elixirdrops.net — community-driven publishing platform for short notes on Elixir and Phoenix. Built and run by me; I write most of the posts.

WRITING

- **Elixir DevOps series** (optimum.ba) — six parts on CI/CD for Elixir: maintaining GitHub Actions workflows, parallel CI with compile caching, testing releases in CI, PR preview apps on Fly.io, zero-downtime deploys, and infrastructure generation.
- **“Stop mounting your LiveView twice”** (elixirdrops.net) — on why LiveView mounts twice on first load, why `connected?/1` is only a partial fix, and an experimental resume approach. Top item in both of the main Elixir newsletters in the same week — Elixir Radar #515 and ElixirWeekly #516.
- **ElixirDrops** (elixirdrops.net) — ongoing short-form technical notes on Elixir and Phoenix internals: `GenServer.call/3` timeout semantics, `:persistent_term` versus ETS for static data, parallel `ExUnit` partitions in CI.

SKILLS

AI & agents — AI coding agents and agentic development workflows; agent harnesses, guardrails, and hooks; planning and verification loops; subagent orchestration; evaluation of agent output; Claude Code, OpenAI Codex, Cursor Agent

Languages & frameworks — Elixir, Phoenix, LiveView, Ecto, PETAL stack; JavaScript, PHP, Ruby on Rails

Infrastructure & tooling — CI/CD, GitHub Actions, Fly.io, Docker, PostgreSQL; infrastructure automation, zero-downtime deploys, preview environments; deterministic checks, static analysis (Credo, Dialyzer), dependency and security auditing, test strategy

Product & leadership — full-stack product development, developer experience, technical leadership, code review, mentoring and editorial review of other developers' work

AVAILABILITY

Open to full-time or contract work from **September 2026**. Strongest interest in AI coding agents, agent harnesses, guardrails, evaluation, and developer tooling; open to other product and platform work. Elixir preferred but not required.