

João Gonçalves

Founding Engineer @ **BRIDGE IN** · Lisbon, Portugal

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SUMMARY

Founding Engineer at **BRIDGE IN**, running a 14-agent AI orchestration system that ships full-stack features end-to-end. 15 years of engineering leadership before that — DevOps, platform, and engineering departments through one \$20M acquisition and several scale-ups.

EXPERIENCE

BRIDGE IN — Founding Engineer Nov 2025 - Present · Lisbon, Portugal

- Building the **BRIDGE IN** Operating System from the ground up. A full-stack platform (Django, React) centralizing payroll, accounting, HR, legal, and tax compliance for international companies across four European markets.
- Designing and operating a 14-agent AI orchestration system where specialized agents coordinate through a 4-phase workflow to plan, implement, test, and deliver full-stack features end-to-end with minimal human intervention.
- Authoring 27 custom development skills that automate the entire engineering pipeline: from Sentry error triage and Slack feedback processing to autonomous issue creation, CI failure resolution, implementation, and production deployment.
- Operating AI agents that autonomously monitor production errors, triage user feedback, implement high-priority fixes, and generate release reports, functioning as a permanent member of the engineering team.
- Establishing the entire product development function from zero — CI/CD, quality gates, error monitoring, and release cadence in under 3 months.

Altium — Director of Software Engineering Jan 2024 - Nov 2025 · Lisbon, Portugal

- Integrating Valispace as an Altium 365 app and ensuring continuity and merging capabilities in the aftermath of a high-profile acquisition.
- Doubling the engineering department's size and coaching new team leads to own all operations, encompassing project management, system architecture, and software development.
- Interfacing cross-departmentally to identify and implement technology solutions that directly impact business growth, streamline processes, and optimize data analytics capabilities, notably equipping DevOps with improved Kubernetes infrastructure to accommodate a surge in demand.
- Cultivating a healthy, productive, and meritocratic department culture that retained 90% of its staff post-merger, despite the temptation of a generous shareholder payout.

Valispace — Head of Technology & Interim CTO Aug 2022 - Feb 2024 · Lisbon, Portugal

- Positioned Valispace, a fast-growing startup, as an attractive asset for a \$20M acquisition by Altium, and directed all due diligence to ensure a frictionless transaction and transition to new ownership.
- Partnered with the CEO & CPO to orient the company's strategic direction and pioneered AI's early adoption.
- Orchestrated an engineering department's 25+ staff on three teams to successfully implement cloud computing and other emerging technologies, notably operating a complex global cloud environment with only three engineers.
- Implemented ISO-27001 to access untapped and highly regulated opportunities in the aerospace sector, such as Airbus, Clearspace, and iSpace.

Valispace — Head of DevOps Oct 2020 - Aug 2022 · Lisbon, Portugal

- Oversaw an operations team of four responsible for 100+ cloud-based & on-premise deployments with maintenance & support.
 - Owned a robust continuous integration and deployment pipeline that accelerated time-to-market for software releases by 88.89%.
 - Established and maintained strong relationships with external vendors and stakeholders to ensure the successful integration of third-party tools and services.
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Valispace — Senior Developer

Aug 2018 - Oct 2020 · Lisbon, Portugal

- Performed in-depth code reviews, amplified team productivity, reduced software defects, and streamlined development processes by introducing Agile and automated testing frameworks.
- Developed, maintained, and improved both the backend REST API and the Frontend app.

EARLIER CAREER

Quidgest — R&D Software Engineer

Jan 2016 - Aug 2018

Built and continuously improved a low-code tool that was ahead of its time because it enabled non-technical users to assemble complex software solutions like ERPs, HR portals, and document management resources; clients included Portugal's government & armed forces.

Sources.pt — Co-Founder & Lead Developer

Jan 2015 - Oct 2017

Conceived an IoT modular platform, built a working prototype, and pitched the project to a larger tech company to secure financing and merge capabilities.

Inova Software — Senior Mobile Developer

Apr 2013 - Jan 2015

Led the Partnering Place Mobile app: project management, UI render engine designed around descriptive models, Phonegap-based delivery with Backbone.js, Angular.js, and per-OS UI customization.

Quidgest — R&D Software Engineer

May 2011 - Apr 2013

Built and continuously improved a low-code tool that enabled non-technical users to assemble complex software solutions like ERPs, HR portals, and document management resources; clients included Portugal's government & armed forces.

EmergeIT — Developer

Jan 2011 - May 2011

Built remote management applications across mobile devices and web admin tools, on Phonegap with JavaScript frameworks.

NAD / Design Solutions — Developer

Sep 2009 - Dec 2010

Web applications (HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Python, Django, SQL, AJAX, ActionScript) for intranets, newsletters, multimedia, and database systems.

EDUCATION

Universidade de Évora — Computer Science (incomplete)

Sep 2001 - May 2009

LANGUAGES

Portuguese (Native) · English (Full Professional) · French (Elementary)

TOP SKILLS

Python · AI-Augmented Engineering · Engineering Leadership · Cloud Infrastructure & DevOps · Product Discovery

CERTIFICATIONS

GenAI + Marketing · GenAI + Strategy · GenAI + Finance · Formação Pedagógica Inicial de Formadores · Angular 6 - The Complete Guide