

# TRAVIS PENCE

## Senior Full-Stack Engineer / Technical Lead

Cuenca, Ecuador (UTC-5, US Eastern-aligned) | Remote | [travis.pence@gmail.com](mailto:travis.pence@gmail.com) | [linkedin.com/in/travis-pence](https://linkedin.com/in/travis-pence) | [travispace.com](https://travispace.com)

## SUMMARY

Product-minded software engineer with 10+ years across consulting, startups, mobile, SaaS MVPs, event-driven systems, and geospatial data platforms. Strong at turning vague requirements and messy data into shipped, supported software — leading delivery, writing the code, and keeping distributed teams unblocked. Working remotely with US teams from a US-aligned timezone since 2015. Detailed case studies at [travispace.com/hire.html](https://travispace.com/hire.html).

## CORE STRENGTHS

- **Technical leadership:** User-story shaping, demos, architecture artifacts, stakeholder communication, teammate unblock support.
- **Full-stack delivery:** React, Node.js, TypeScript, API design, admin workflows, MVP development, Astro static sites.
- **Backend & systems:** Kafka, Kotlin, Spring Boot, PostgreSQL, distributed tracing, DataDog, production troubleshooting.
- **Geospatial & data:** Python pipelines, PostGIS, GPX/GTFS processing, MapLibre, PMTiles, provenance and review workflows.
- **Cloud & delivery:** AWS, Kubernetes, Helm, Docker, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI/CD, Linux, NGINX.
- **Mobile & international:** Flutter/Dart offline-first field software; full working Spanish; remote-first, cross-timezone collaboration.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Thoughtworks — Application Developer / Technical Lead

Mar 2022 – Present

- Inherited a legacy Kafka streams platform (hundreds of thousands of messages/week) with a two-day handover from a departing team; stabilized, documented, and supported it in production.
- Identified and corrected missing reporting data across 200,000+ rows in a production reporting database, restoring trust in downstream reporting.
- Helped launch a greenfield Task API and Kafka Streams processor after a six-month multi-team delivery effort.
- Integrated DataDog distributed tracing across the domain; built dashboards and operational views for logs, runtime metrics, and production behavior.
- As technical lead: translated vague requirements into user stories and implementation plans, kicked off work, removed blockers, and ran standups, retros, demos, and troubleshooting sessions with cross-functional US stakeholders.
- Produced documentation, architecture notes, blogs, and screen recordings to preserve design decisions and operational learning.

**Tech:** *Kafka, Kotlin, Spring Boot, Kubernetes, Helm, PostgreSQL, AWS (ECR, S3, RDS, QuickSight), GitHub Actions, DataDog*

### 60Hertz Energy — Software Engineer, Mobile

Dec 2019 – Aug 2021

- Sole developer of a cross-platform Flutter mobile app for a SaaS product serving remote energy operations — built from zero to launch, then owned cleanup, support, and every subsequent release.
- Delivered offline-first workflows, form building, and field-ready experiences for environments where connectivity is not guaranteed.
- Diagnosed cross-platform issues via Sentry, Kibana, logs, and cloud-service investigation; supported deployment through MDM, Google Play, and the Apple App Store.

**Tech:** *Flutter, Dart, TypeScript, Vue, Node.js, Docker, Traefik, Elasticsearch, Kibana, Sentry, MongoDB, GitLab CI/CD*

### Freelance Developer — Web, SaaS, WordPress & MVP Projects

Feb 2015 – Oct 2021

- Owned client work end to end: proposals, specs, implementation, deployment (Linux, DNS, SSL), documentation, and handoff — in English and Spanish.
- Built a WordPress order/invoicing plugin automating billing for 100+ client accounts, reducing multi-day monthly manual work to a short workflow.
- Created SaaS MVPs (auth, roles, Stripe payments) and Elasticsearch/Kibana ingestion and dashboards for a Spanish-speaking fintech team in Ecuador.

**Tech:** *JavaScript, Node.js, Express, MongoDB, PHP, WordPress, Stripe, Elasticsearch, Kibana, Leaflet, Android, Linux, NGINX*

### Earlier: NDP LLC — Junior Software Engineer; CIRES / NOAA NGDC — Student Assistant

2013 – 2015

- R&D prototypes with NASA/satellite geodata visualizations; data ingestion scripts and a shipboard metadata editor for NOAA oceanic data scientists.

## INDEPENDENT PRODUCTS (CURRENT)

---

### TrailKit — Trail Running Ecuador: geospatial publishing platform

Active

- Designed and built a local-first system transforming GPX tracks, race records, and field media into reviewed, privacy-safe public content: Python processing pipeline (119 modules, 68 test files), six FastAPI admin services with React map workbenches, PostgreSQL/PostGIS authoring, and a static Astro site.
- Modeled publication as gated workflow — access, safety, attribution, media privacy, and geometry visibility as separate decisions — with a strict boundary between source evidence, internal review state, public-safe projections, and site output.
- Deterministic rebuilds with artifact manifests, checksums, and automated public-boundary QA scans in CI.

**Tech:** Python, Pydantic, FastAPI, PostgreSQL/PostGIS, Astro, React, TypeScript, Zustand, TanStack Query, MapLibre, Leaflet, PMTiles

### Cuenca Bus Route Builder — InCuencaEcuador.com: transit data platform

Active

- Built a Node pipeline that parses, normalizes, and matches disagreeing public transit sources (PDFs, municipal datasets, shapefiles, GTFS) while preserving provenance: 38 bus lines, 428 canonical stops, 1,237 tracked aliases, and an explicit 412-item human review queue.
- Shipped three surfaces from one dataset: a public bus map, a map-led city Atlas, and a private data-QA workspace — uncertainty kept visible rather than published as fact.

**Tech:** React, TypeScript, Vite, MapLibre, PMTiles, Node

## EDUCATION & LANGUAGES

---

University of Colorado Boulder — Dual B.A., Computer Science and Spanish, 2014

Spanish: full working proficiency | Brazilian Portuguese: limited working proficiency