FOUNDER

Sebastian Galonska

I build companies.
And the teams that run them.



E-MAIL sebastian@cto.berlin **LINKEDIN** linkedin.com/in/sgalonska **PHONE** +49 30 498 04 008 · +1 315 898 1130

3 to 200+
Team size when I scaled Kontist from startup to bank

5M+
Users on Germany's largest social network at studiVZ

15+
CTOs coached through CTO.berlin

1997
Shipping and fixing software since my first IT job

BUILDING NOW

2026 – TODAY

Auditbahn
Founder

Managed compliance for SaaS and AI founders. SOC 2 and ISO 27001, done for you.

DEC 2020 – TODAY

CTO.berlin
Founder · CTO coach and part-time CTO

CTO coaching and part-time CTO work for startups.

COMPANIES I BUILT

Jan 2016 – Jul 2022

Kontist
Co-founder & Chief Technology Officer

Took the company from a three-person startup to a leading provider of banking services. Grew the team to more than 200 people.

SOLD JUL 2022

Apr 2012 – Sep 2015

Bergfürst
Software architect & Co-CTO

Part of the initial team that bootstrapped the company and its application, and got it through a banking license in a heavily regulated market.

Mar 2011 – Jun 2012

Pistachio
Co-founder & CTO

Bootstrapped a social network integrated with Google Maps, Foursquare and Facebook.

ADVISORY AND PLATFORM YEARS

Feb 2021 – Mar 2022

Philipps & Byrne
Technical due diligence expert

Technical due diligence reviews that helped investors decide.

Feb 2008 – Mar 2011

studiVZ
Developer advocate & senior platform developer

Responsible for scalability of Germany's largest social network. Promoted OpenSocial and the VZ APIs to outside developers and coordinated the team building platform features.

WHAT MY CLIENTS SAY

> I've worked with Sebastian for over a year and can absolutely recommend him as a coach, mentor and sparring partner for technical leaders. His hands-on experience, pragmatic mindset and radical candor helped me a lot in continuously discovering new perspectives and making the right decisions!
>
> **Nikolai Gulatz**
> CTO & Managing Director, Instaffo

> Sebastian has an incredible ability to listen and provide thoughtful feedback that is tailored to your specific challenges. […] His insights were always spot-on and helped me to better navigate complex situations with my team.
>
> **Milko Slavov**
> CTO, TOKI

> Sebastian is a brilliant and gifted technology leader who knows how to get the best out of people. […] Sebastian is an ultimate tech leader and I would recommend him without a hesitation to any company or team.
>
> **Milos Nikolic**
> Engineering Manager, Emma

> What sets Sebastian apart is his directness. He doesn't sugarcoat things. He gives a lot of clarity and asks important questions. His advice is always practical and immediately applicable.
>
> **Patrick Lerner**
> Head of Engineering, Instaffo

> He gave me an opportunity to look at my work from a very different perspective from my own. He helped me gain significantly more confidence in what I'm doing, be more decisive and focused.
>
> **Dmitry Chugreev**
> CTO, Assaia

> I felt he has an incredible balance of knowing his craft, being humble and at the same time having and expressing his own opinions based on his knowledge rather than what books would tell you.
>
> **Mikhail Yaroshevskiy**
> Software Engineer, Booking.com

EARLIER, IN THE ENGINE ROOM

Sep 2007 – Aug 2008	**TFH Berlin**, lecturer. Taught advanced PHP techniques because the university lacked teachers from the real world.
Jan 2006 – Jan 2008	**YOC AG**, application developer. Built a content management system for mobile content delivery at one of Germany's largest advertising agencies.
Nov 2002 – Dec 2005	**Rent a PACS**, application developer. Rebuilt and extended a web-based asset management system for the largest editorial group in Poland.
Sep 2000 – Sep 2001	**Nautis IT**, FileMaker developer. Planned, built and customized a FileMaker-based prop management system.
Oct 1998 – Aug 2000	**System & Project**, supporter. Kept hundreds of computer systems running while finishing my degree.
Apr – Aug 1998	**GfK**, IT assistant. Analyzed socio-demographic data with the Quantum programming language.
Aug 1997 – Feb 1998	**s.Oliver**, IT supporter. Technical maintenance of 180 workstations.
1993 – 1994	**McDonald's Europe**, kitchen assistant. Prepared meals and served customers while finishing school. Still proud of it.

EDUCATION

Berlin University of Applied Sciences (BHT)
Graduate computer scientist, 1998–2002

LANGUAGES

German native · English business fluent · Polish fluent · French conversational · Spanish conversational