

Contact

rosekairu@gmail.com

www.linkedin.com/in/rosekairu
(LinkedIn)

rosekairu.com (Portfolio)

github.com/rosekairu (Other)

Top Skills

GDPR

Agile Development

Angular

Certifications

Data Protection and Compliance

Learn Ruby Course

Software Engineer

Learn Ruby on Rails Course

Rose Kairu

Digital Systems Officer | Platform Management & Data Protection |
Mawazo Institute

Kenya

Summary

I sit at the intersection of technology and impact — keeping the digital infrastructure of research and knowledge institutions running, secure, and built for scale. As a Digital Systems Officer at The Mawazo Institute, I manage the platforms that power how African researchers learn, connect, and grow. That means everything from maintaining our Learning Management System and stakeholder platforms, to leading digital migrations, building monitoring tools, and ensuring we stay compliant with Kenya's Data Protection Act and GDPR. I'm also the person staff call when something breaks — and I make sure it gets fixed properly, not just patched. My foundation is software engineering. I've spent years writing code, debugging platforms, and thinking about how systems should be designed from the ground up — which means I don't just manage tools, I understand them deeply. That combination of engineering instinct and operational ownership is what I bring to every problem I touch. Right now I'm deepening my expertise in data protection, working toward my DPO certification — because in an era where African organisations are handling more sensitive data than ever, the people managing that data need to be technically literate, not just legally aware. I care about building digital systems that work for African institutions — not systems that were built elsewhere and barely adapted. If you work at the intersection of technology, data, and impact on this continent, I'd love to connect.

Experience

The Mawazo Institute

2 years 10 months

Digital Systems Officer

March 2025 - Present (1 year 4 months)

Nairobi County, Kenya

Own the technical infrastructure underpinning two flagship programmes — the Mawazo Learning Exchange (MLEx) and Mawazo Connects — ensuring both platforms remain stable, secure, and fit for purpose.

- Administer and continuously improve the organisation's core digital stack: MLEx {lms}, Connects, and Google Workspace
- Supported the organisation's migration from Dropbox to Google Workspace, driving staff adoption and strengthening document governance across the organisation
- Drive compliance with the Kenya Data Protection Act and GDPR, embedding data protection practices across digital operations
- Build and maintain performance dashboards and monitoring tools that give leadership real-time visibility into programme health
- Serve as the internal technical authority — diagnosing and resolving system issues, training staff on digital tools, and reducing dependency on external support
- Collaborate with the fractional CIO on digital strategy, systems optimisation, and evaluating emerging technologies for programme use

Associate Software Engineer

September 2023 - March 2025 (1 year 7 months)

Nairobi County, Kenya

Maintained and improved the Mawazo Learning Exchange (MLEx) platform and main website, ensuring continuous availability and a consistent learner experience.

- Diagnosed and resolved platform bugs, plugin conflicts, and day-to-day technical issues across MLEx and the main Mawazo website
- Monitored the MLEx support desk, triaging and resolving user issues in a timely manner
- Tracked and reported platform analytics using Google Analytics and Monster Insights to inform course and content decisions
- Contributed to building a new Alumni website
- Conducted UX testing on new courses and produced manuals, tutorials, and documentation to support staff and learners

Jise

Software Engineer

May 2022 - October 2022 (6 months)

- Built and tested features for the Jise App, working within a remote cross-functional team
- Developed front-end views and responsive templates for the Jise web platform
- Contributed to technical documentation to support ongoing development and QA

Freelance

Full Stack Software Engineer

September 2020 - April 2022 (1 year 8 months)

- Designed wireframes, sitemaps, and content inventories for client web projects
- Translated design mock-ups into functional, responsive web presences across multiple client engagements
- Managed the full development cycle independently — from scoping through to delivery

Freelance

Data Annotator and Review

January 2020 - October 2021 (1 year 10 months)

- Annotated visual data to train AI models in 3D object recognition and feature identification
- Maintained high accuracy standards through systematic review and verification of annotated datasets

United Nations

I.T Assistant

May 2016 - November 2016 (7 months)

Nairobi County, Kenya

- Supported software application planning, design, development, and testing within a UN conference environment
- Coordinated IT logistics across multiple assigned conference groups in a fast-paced, high-stakes setting

Gertrude's Children's Hospital

I.T Technician

January 2014 - August 2014 (8 months)

Nairobi County, Kenya

- Configured hardware and software to meet network performance requirements across hospital systems

- Provided networking, desktop support, and troubleshooting for clinical and administrative staff
- Supported IT team in the maintenance of hardware, software, and integrated systems
- Collaborated with the design team on software module integration

Education

African Centre for Data Science & Analytics Ltd.

Data Protection and Compliance

Caltech

Caltech Post Graduate Program in AI and Machine Learning · (February 2025 - December 2025)

Google Africa Developer supported by Andela

Associate Android Developer, Android Development · (July 2021 - December 2021)

Moringa School

Computer Software Engineering · (2020)

KCA University

Bachelor of Science - BS, Information Technology