White Wolf Studio ZA

Fractional Engineering Lead

The senior engineer in the room for teams that do not have one — for a fixed number of hours a week

Most 3–30 developer PHP/Laravel teams have a senior who is drowning and an owner who cannot tell good code from bad. A fractional lead reviews, decides, unblocks and keeps the process honest — without the cost of a R100k+/month hire, and with a clean hand-over when your permanent lead arrives.

TWO TIERS

Core — R18,000/month	About 6 hours a week (25 hours a month). Every PR reviewed within one working day (AI first pass, human judgement). A weekly 45-minute lead sync. Async questions answered within four working hours. A one-page owner report every Monday.
Plus — R30,000/month	About 10 hours a week (40 hours a month). Everything in Core, plus: sprint/planning facilitation, CV screening and technical interviews for your hires, incident advice during working hours, two-hour async turnaround.
Terms	Three-month minimum, then month to month on 30 days' notice. Billed monthly in advance. Hours do not roll over. Overage at R900/hour, approved in writing before it is worked. Not a VAT vendor.

WHAT "LEAD" INCLUDES

- **Reviewing.** Every pull request gets a human look. Approval authority stays with your designated merger unless you delegate it in writing.
- **Deciding.** Architecture and technical-direction calls when asked, with the reasoning written down so the decision outlives the conversation.
- **Unblocking.** "Is this the right way to do it?" answered quickly and specifically. Pairing on a hard problem for up to an hour at a time.
- **Keeping the process honest.** The PR process, CI and roadmap are maintained: quarantined tests get fixed, warn-mode checks move to enforce, roadmap phases get scheduled.
- **Coaching.** Specific, kind feedback to your developers in PRs and syncs.
- **Reporting.** The Monday one-pager: velocity, risks, decisions needed, what is next. Four minutes to read.
- **Hand-over.** When you hire your permanent lead: a written hand-over and two weeks of overlap, included.

WHAT IT DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Feature development. The lead reviews code; your team writes it. Fixes under 15 minutes found during review are done on the spot; anything larger becomes a ticket.
- On-call, weekends, or evenings after 21:00. If production is down at 23:00, your runbook is the answer.
- Guaranteed availability. The retainer buys hours, not a seat. Hours are scheduled around a full-time role.
- Production operation. Reviewing your deploy pipeline, yes. Holding production credentials or pressing the button, no.
- Project management, line management, or HR.

RESPONSE TIMES

PR opened	AI first-pass comment within minutes; human review within one working day
Question, working hours	Core: within 4 working hours · Plus: within 2

Question, after hours	Next working day
Weekly report	Monday by 10:00
Sync	Fixed weekly slot, moved with 24 hours' notice by either side

HOW IT STARTS

Most engagements begin with a two-week Engineering Reset so there is a process to lead. Signed together, the Reset is R22,500 instead of R25,000. A 15-minute fit call is the first step: hello@whitewolfstudio.co.za