

SHUJA ALI

Technical Lead | Senior Full Stack Developer · Islamabad, Pakistan ·

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SUMMARY

Full-stack engineer with 5+ years building production-grade web applications across fintech, SaaS, and AI domains. Experienced in architecting MERN and Next.js systems from schema design through deployment, with a strong focus on performance, maintainability, and cost-aware API usage. Currently managing technical delivery for multiple product teams at Ropstam Solutions while staying hands-on with architecture, code reviews, and complex feature development. Comfortable owning decisions around system design, third-party integrations, and infrastructure setup on AWS.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Frontend: React.js, Next.js, TypeScript, JavaScript (ES6+), Redux, Zustand, TailwindCSS, Material-UI, Shadcn/ui

Backend: Node.js, Express.js, NestJS, GraphQL (Apollo), WebSockets (Socket.io), RESTful API design

Databases & Caching: MongoDB, PostgreSQL, Redis, Mongoose, Prisma, aggregation pipelines, query indexing

AI & Automation: OpenAI API (GPT-5), Anthropic API, Gemini API, LangChain, RAG pipelines, vector databases, Playwright, Puppeteer

Payments & Fintech: Stripe (subscriptions, webhooks), PayPal, Plaid API, Dwolla, ACH transfers

Cloud & DevOps: AWS (EC2, S3, RDS), Docker, GitHub Actions, PM2, CI/CD pipelines

Testing & Tooling: Jest, Playwright, Postman, Swagger/OpenAPI, Git

AI-Assisted Development: GitHub Copilot, Cursor: used daily for code generation, refactoring, and debugging acceleration

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Software Development Manager

[Ropstam Solutions](#) · Islamabad, Pakistan · *November 2024 – Present*

- Define data models, API contracts, and service boundaries across 8+ concurrent projects spanning MERN, mobile, and WordPress stacks
- Introduced Redis caching on high-read endpoints across two projects, cutting average response times by ~40% on frequently hit routes
- Handle production incidents end-to-end; root cause analysis, fix deployment, and follow-up safeguards to prevent recurrence
- Build critical features personally (payment flows, OpenAI integrations, complex workflows) where senior-level depth is required
- Mentor 30+ engineers via code reviews and pair programming; authored internal standards covering API design, Git workflows, and security practices

Team Lead – MERN Stack

[Ropstam Solutions](#) · Islamabad, Pakistan · *July 2023 – November 2024*

- Led a team of 15 engineers with ~60% direct coding contribution, alongside sprint planning and PR reviews
- Built RAG pipelines using LangChain and FAISS/Pinecone for document Q&A; added prompt-level caching to reduce OpenAI API costs by ~30%
- Implemented Socket.io real-time features (chat, notifications, collaborative editing) with Redis pub/sub to support multi-instance deployments
- Provisioned AWS infrastructure (EC2, S3, RDS) with load balancing and auto-scaling; migrated two projects off shared hosting, improving uptime stability
- Migrated two JS codebases to TypeScript, enforcing strict types across API boundaries and reducing runtime errors in production
- Set up BitBucket CI/CD pipelines covering linting, testing, and automated deploys to staging and production

MERN Stack Developer

[Ropstam Solutions](#) · Islamabad, Pakistan · *July 2022 – June 2023*

- Built production applications end-to-end: API design in Express, MongoDB schema design, and React frontend architecture
- Integrated Stripe and PayPal with webhook handling for subscription lifecycle events and idempotency key enforcement
- Optimized MongoDB aggregation queries with compound indexes; reduced execution time from ~4s to under 300ms on key reporting endpoints
- Implemented JWT auth with refresh token rotation and OAuth2; structured token invalidation to reduce session hijacking exposure
- Diagnosed and resolved Node.js memory leaks across two projects by profiling heap usage and identifying event listener accumulation

Freelance Full Stack Developer

[Fiverr](#) / [Upwork](#) · Remote · April 2020 – Present

- Delivered custom web applications for international clients across fintech, SaaS, and e-commerce
 - Built AI-powered tools, including document editors with inline GPT suggestions and real-time collaboration via WebSockets
 - Managed full deployment lifecycle independently on AWS and DigitalOcean
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PROJECTS

LVL Parking Platform · app.lvlparking.com *React, Node.js, MongoDB, Stripe, Socket.io, AWS*
Parking management SaaS handling real-time bay availability, Stripe subscription billing, and an operator admin dashboard. Designed a WebSocket-based availability system that updates clients on spot status changes without polling. Stripe webhooks handle subscription state transitions with idempotent event processing.

FinanceFlow · securebank.devmatations.com *Next.js, TypeScript, PostgreSQL, Plaid API, Dwolla*
Multi-account personal finance platform with bank account linking via Plaid and ACH fund transfers through Dwolla. Structured PostgreSQL schema to handle multi-account transaction history with proper foreign key relationships and indexed queries for fast transaction lookups. OAuth-based auth flow with encrypted token storage.

Podcast AI · podcast-ai.devmatations.com *Next.js, OpenAI API, AWS S3, PostgreSQL*
Text-to-audio generator that converts written content into podcast-style audio using OpenAI's TTS API. Implemented streaming audio delivery to avoid large file buffering; generated files stored on S3 with signed URL access. Built a content management layer so users can manage, edit, and re-generate episodes.

Backdrop AI · backdrop-ai.devmatations.com *React, Node.js, Cloudinary API, MongoDB*
Image editing tool with AI-powered background removal and generative fill using Cloudinary's transformation pipeline. Handled large image uploads with client-side compression before upload to reduce processing time and storage costs.

SmartFormBot *Node.js, Playwright, Puppeteer*
Browser automation tool for structured form data extraction. Handles conditional form logic, dynamic field detection, and basic CAPTCHA bypass using Playwright's browser context management. Designed to be configurable via JSON schema so non-engineers can define new form targets without code changes.

EDUCATION

B.Sc. Software Engineering [COMSATS University Islamabad](#) · 2018 – 2022

CERTIFICATIONS

- Python for Data Engineering – Coursera
- Python for Applied Data Science – Coursera
- Node.js Essential Training – LinkedIn Learning
- Complete Web Developer Bootcamp – Udemy