



Syk Houdeib

I'm a **frontend developer** based in Madrid with 4 years of experience.
A career-changer who pivoted into tech from teaching at 40. I wrote a [popular article](#) about that great journey.
I'm very motivated and excited to learn and keep growing as a developer. I enjoy the problem-solving aspects of coding. And the need for continuous learning satisfies my constant curiosity.
I love to mentor and be an advocate for juniors and career-changers as well as more diversity in tech.

Skills

React
Redux (Sagas, Immutable)
JavaScript
Next.js
HTML, CSS
Backbone

Experience

Frontend developer

Lola Market, Madrid – (2018 - current)

Lola Market is a Madrid Startup that delivers supermarket shopping. I joined as a junior with no experience as part of a team of two frontends. I've been involved in all the development tasks of the department over the years. From the web app, to the back-office tools, to emails.

Over that time we became the market leader in Spain and recently got acquired by Glovo.

Some of the major projects that I have been involved in include:



Making the site responsive and mobile friendly.

Going from a 100% desktop site to a mobile first site



Full migration from Backbone to React + Redux.

Experimenting with the right tech stack. Starting development in React. Deciding to migrate all legacy code.



Internationalisation of the platform.

We implemented translations from scratch across the entire site. Handling prices in different currencies. Handling time and date in different timezones.



White label theming.

Changing all our CSS files to JSS to allow for different themes. Integrating the site with a third party mobile app using themes and feature flags.



SSR with Next.js and SEO improvements.

Created server side rendering for all our pages. Made many SEO improvements, and optimised performance with web vitals, which saw a dramatic rise in organic traffic and first page indexing for searches of products on the platform.

Some of my daily tasks and tools are:

- Using **Git** and **Git Flow/semver** to manage versions/branches/releases
- Participating in cross departmental **refinement meetings** to develop feature ideas based on data and **A/B test** results
- Working with UI/UX teams to come up with the best solutions to the problems we are trying to solve
- Working closely with the backend team to develop the API with performance in mind
- Developing new **features**, fixing **bugs**, dealing with **hotfixes**, maintaining code, doing **scout** duties to improve code quality and **scalability**
- Doing **code reviews** for all frontend pull requests. We put a lot of emphasis on **code quality**. We use **Prettier** and **ESLint** to keep everything uniform and clean
- Participating with the QA team in the review process. Working with them on **Cypress** end to end test implementations.
- Managing **releases**, **deploying**, monitoring, and keeping the repos organised
- Working with business and operations departments to create **bespoke back-office tools**. Such as building a warehouse management tool from scratch, a stock management tool, and maintaining dispatching tools.
- Setting up a brand new **email templating** system with **MJML** and **React** to serve responsive HTML emails to the backend transactional emails.
- Lead the **hiring** process of a new frontend developer. Selection, interviews, code test.
- Became a **mentor** for the new junior team member, helping with the code and tooling **onboarding**. Doing **pair programming** to work on tasks together. Resolving doubts. Spotting areas for improvement and setting up **workshops** to explore the subject together

BA(Hons) Creative Music Technology

University of Hull. Scarborough, UK – (2003 - 2006)

Graduated with a **First Class BA Honours** degree with a 90% score on the final long study

+ More about me

Languages

Fluent in    العربية

Other experiences

English teacher *Madrid & Granada – (2008 - 2018)*

- Worked mainly with primary school kids
- Became the **coordinator** of an academy responsible for a team of 15 teachers

Restaurant business *Beirut, Amman, Ankara, Sharm el Sheikh, & Bournemouth – (1996 - 2003)*

- Became an international trainer for Hard Rock Café at 19yo
- Managed a pizzeria in England for 3 years

The interesting stuff



Tech I'm interested in now, learning about or planning to learn:

Typescript, Testing, Node and the MERN stack, .dotfiles, Docker, CI pipelines



Comfortable with leadership roles and coordinating teams, even though my main focus for now is on coding.



I love to write. You can [read some of my tech articles here](#). I've been published by FreeCodeCamp, Hackernoon, Honeypot's .Cult, and Better Programming.



I'm very proud of my 1500+ GitHub stars that I have received in such a short time in tech. I'm active in the dev community through my Twitter, GitHub projects, and my articles. I enjoy participating in the community and giving a hand to those on a similar journey to mine.



I'm a lifelong learner and deeply curious with an incurable desire to learn and understand everything! Apart from programming, I'm excited about linguistics, music, history, sciences, everything!



I like to say that I was born in hummus, I'm a Marmite citizen, and I live in Patatas Bravas. This is in reference to being born in Lebanon, being a British national, and living in Spain. And of course my near obsession with food.




I started a rock band as a teen.




I enjoy swimming and running.



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