

CHARLES KOJO MARK

Backend Engineer

Aba, Nigeria | +2347082367382 | markcharleskojo@gmail.com | linkedin.com/in/markcharleskojo
github.com/Charleskojomark | [Portfolio/Website]

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Results-driven Backend Engineer with extensive experience in designing and scaling robust, data-driven systems using Django, Node.js, NestJS, and modern API frameworks. Expert in developing real-time booking platforms, secure authentication, and integrated payment systems, with a focus on performance optimization and scalability. Proficient in deploying applications on Render, leveraging Cloudflare for DNS and security, and integrating Cloudinary for media management. Led award-winning projects like Oluora (recognized by the Abia State Government) and Fasthands (a funded service marketplace MVP). Passionate about mentoring aspiring developers and delivering production-ready solutions that drive business impact.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Languages & Frameworks:** Python, Javascript, Django, Django REST Framework, Node.js, Express.js, NestJS, TypeScript
 - **Databases:** PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB
 - **Media Management:** Cloudinary (image/video upload, optimization, transformation)
 - **DevOps & Deployment:** Render, Google Cloud, AWS (beginner), Cloudflare (DNS, CDN, security), Namecheap, Docker, Unicorn, Nginx
 - **Tools:** Git, GitHub, GitLab, Celery, Redis, Cloudflare Workers
 - **Testing:** Pytest, Unittest, Jest (Unit & Integration Testing)
 - **CI/CD:** GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, Jenkins
 - **Architectures:** RESTful APIs, Microservices
 - **Methodologies:** Agile, Scrum
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Backend Engineer / Instructor | Innovation Growth Hub

Abia State, Nigeria | August 2024 – Present

- Designed and taught backend curriculum (Python/Django, Node.js/NestJS) to 50+ students—70% completed capstone projects and earned internships/developer roles.
- Built secure APIs and media workflows using NestJS and Cloudinary for student project platforms.
- Mentored hackathon teams—led to 2 investor-pitched MVPs including Oluora (award-winning civic-tech platform).
- Conducted code reviews and debugging workshops, fostering best practices and improving code quality.

Backend Engineer (Django/NestJS) | Fasthands Inc

Abia State, Nigeria | October 2024 – February 2025

- Led backend development for service marketplace MVP with Django, NestJS, and DRF—delivered 80% of core features ahead of schedule.
- Built registration, artisan onboarding, booking logic, and secure auth—paired with Cloudinary integration for media.
- Collaborated on product-market fit and stakeholder demos; helped Fasthands win a funding competition.
- Deployed on Render with Cloudflare; managed DNS via Namecheap; optimized performance using Redis, Gunicorn.

Backend Engineer (Django) | OJM Electrical Company

Abia State, Nigeria | June 2024 – August 2024

- Engineered and optimized RESTful APIs using Django and PostgreSQL for client bookings, service listings, and authentication—accelerating booking processes by 60% and boosting user retention by 30%.
- Designed custom scheduling logic to match clients with electricians based on location and job type—cutting booking errors by 45%.
- Automated notifications (email/SMS) via Celery + Redis—lowering no-shows by 20%.
- Optimized queries with Django ORM & MySQL—enhancing page load speed by 40% on high-traffic endpoints.
- Configured Cloudflare DNS/CDN for better performance and security.

EDUCATION

2024 August - Present

Software Development - International University Of Applied Sciences, Germany.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Meta Backend Developer Professional Certificate | Meta | 2023
 - AWS Certified Developer – Associate (In Progress) | Amazon Web Services
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PROJECTS

RealNaijaGist – Nigerian Entertainment and News Platform

- Developed a Django-based backend with dynamic templating and RESTful APIs to deliver news, entertainment, and lifestyle content, launched in 2023.
- Implemented secure contact forms and media integration using Cloudinary for image/video management, enhancing user engagement.
- Deployed on Namecheap hosting with Cloudflare for DNS, CDN, and security, utilizing PostgreSQL and Django template engine for scalability and performance.

Oluora – Government–Citizen Engagement Platform

- Developed backend using Django/NestJS APIs, secure auth, Cloudinary media integration.
- Won an Abia State Government award in a civic tech hackathon.
- Deployed with Render, Cloudflare DNS/CDN, PostgreSQL, Celery, Redis for scalability.

Fasthands – Service Marketplace MVP

- Architected scalable backend with Django, NestJS, DRF, Cloudinary.
 - Secured early user adoption and funding; deployed via Render and Cloudflare, DNS via Namecheap.
 - Optimized performance using Redis caching, Gunicorn, and Cloudflare CDN.
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ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Civic Connect Hackathon Win (2025):** Led development of Oluora, a Django and NestJS-based platform connecting citizens to government services, earning an Abia State Government award for innovative civic tech solutions.
- **Startup Weekend Competition (2024):** Architected backend for Fasthands, a service marketplace MVP, securing first place in a funding competition and early user adoption.