

Fernando J. Soto

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Chicago, Illinois

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Technical Skills

- Programming Languages: C#, Python, Java, JavaScript, PHP
- Web Development: HTML, CSS, ASP.NET Core, React
- Databases: SQL, MongoDB
- Source Control & Scripting: Git, Bash
- Automation: Cypress, Selenium

Work Experience

Paylocity

Chicago, IL (Remote)

Software Engineer

August 2024 - Present

- Optimized the performance of a critical API endpoint, achieving a throughput of 3,000 requests per second by leveraging code profiling, schema analysis, and strategic business logic improvements. Reduced SQL queries by 8x, resulting in a 7.5x reduction in P95 latency, significantly enhancing system responsiveness and scalability.
- Investigated and resolved pipeline build failures caused by unit test timeouts, implementing a lazy loading strategy that improved build times by 7x and reduced build failures by 43%, enhancing CI/CD pipeline efficiency and reliability.
- Established a standardized approach to API documentation to set a strong precedent for future endpoints, enhance existing documentation, address misconceptions, and reduce inter-team questions, improving overall clarity and collaboration.
- Quickly identified root causes of show-stopper bugs during critical release cycles and implemented rapid fixes, enabling the team to proceed with API-first strategy initiatives while ensuring a seamless release process.

Paylocity

Chicago, IL (Remote)

Associate Software Engineer

July 2022 – August 2024

- Diagnosed and resolved a complex, browser-specific bug that impacted the company's culture support initiative, affecting 18% of the user base and hindering critical application functionality. This fix restored key features and improved platform reliability for international users.
- Developed automation coverage for a key product suite used by ~22.5% of the user base, improving test reliability and addressing flakiness. This effort reduced team alert fatigue and increased overall confidence in automation.
- Contributed to company initiative to improve mobile application experience by integrating deep linking functionality across the product suite. This involved collaborating with the mobile development team to align on technical approach and ensure a seamless implementation.

Paylocity

Dominican University

Software Engineer Intern

May 2021 – August 2021

- Implemented a streamlined application tracking process using Google Analytics, enabling more efficient data collection and actionable user insights, providing actionable insights into user activity and facilitating data-driven decision-making.
- Identified and resolved two crucial bugs, leading to a 15% improvement in page load times, significantly enhancing site performance and user experience.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Mathematics

Dominican University – May 2022

Projects

Personal Lending Tracker

Full-Stack Application | SQL, C#, RESTful API, React

- Developed a financial education tool to help siblings learn about loans and credit, evolving it from a database-driven system to a full-stack application.
- Designed and implemented a SQL database with stored procedures and triggers to manage loans, people, and transactions, ensuring data consistency and integrity.
- Built a Windows Form application to improve usability, enabling intuitive tracking and management of loans, payments, and transaction history.
- Transitioned to an API-first approach, developing a RESTful API to expose data and support future integrations, following service layer and DAO design patterns.
- Created a React-based front end to provide a modern, interactive user interface, implementing pagination, error handling, and responsive design.