

Richard Karanu

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Senior Full Stack Software Engineer

Senior Full Stack Engineer with **6+ years of hands-on product experience** building and shipping real products in **VC-backed startups** and high-growth companies. Proven track record of **taking complete ownership** from concept to deployment, with demonstrable **career progression** and leadership in fast-paced startup environments. Specialized in architecting scalable systems that have improved performance by up to 75% while working directly with founders and cross-functional teams.

Startup Ecosystem Experience: Successfully delivered products in AI/HR, FinTech, and SaaS environments with **zero-to-one product development** expertise and **direct founder collaboration**.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages & Frameworks: Python, Java, TypeScript/JavaScript, SQL, React.js, Django, Spring Boot, Node.js, FastAPI, Next.js
Infrastructure & Data: AWS, Azure, Docker, KubernetesCI/CD, Microservices, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Redis, NoSQL, Linux, Git, Test-Driven Development
AI & Emerging Tech: LangGraph, LangChain, AI agents
Learning: Go, Mobile Development, Agentic Computing

EXPERIENCE

Resmatcha (AI in HR/Recruitment) <i>Founding Software Engineer</i>	Remote – Full Time Feb 2025 - Current
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Built entire technical infrastructure from zero for AI-driven job-resume matching platform, working directly with founding teamShipped production-ready product processing 1,000+ resumes daily with 97% matching accuracyLed technical decision-making and architecture choices, demonstrating senior-level ownership and autonomyManaged full product lifecycle from MVP to scale, including Azure cloud migration and Kubernetes deployment <p>Tech Skills: Python, Typescript, FastAPI, Celery, Docker, Kubernetes, Azure, Next.js, Langchain, Postgres</p>	
Kreatoors AI (HR AI Advocacy) <i>Full Stack Software Engineer</i>	Germany, Remote - Contract Jan 2025 – April 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Architected and implemented secure multi-tenant API infrastructure using Node.js and Express, achieving 99.9% uptime and reducing unauthorized access attemptsOptimized API performance through efficient MongoDB indexing and caching strategies, reducing average response time from 800ms to 200ms while maintaining scalabilityLed onboarding and mentoring of 3 new engineers while collaborating with CTO on feature implementations, achieving 90% sprint completion rateEstablished comprehensive API documentation and standardized coding practices, resulting in 60% faster onboarding and 50% improvement in component reusability across the platform <p>Tech Stack: Node.js, TypeScript, Next.js, Express, MongoDB, OpenAI API, AWS</p>	
Complasset (FinTech/Compliance) <i>Full Stack Software Engineer</i>	Spain, Remote - Contract Jun 2024 - Nov 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Architected and led development of AI-powered compliance platform from concept to production, reducing document review time by 20x for financial institutionsImplemented Azure Cognitive Services pipeline with custom AI agents, processing 1,000+ pages daily with 95% accuracy in MNPI detection, validated through user testingEngineered real-time news verification system using Perigon API, reducing false positives by 40% and improving detection confidence by 60%Designed secure document handling system with end-to-end encryption, achieving SOC2 compliance requirements and zero security incidents <p>Tech Skills: Python (Django, FastAPI), React, Typescript, NestJS, Langgraph, Azure Cognitive Services, PostgreSQL,</p>	

Docker, JWT Authentication, Perigon API, Azure Cloud Services,OpenAI API

Miksi AI (AI as a Service)
Full Stack Software Engineer

- Built secure, efficient backend systems and cloud infrastructure, including JWT-authenticated services with zero incidents across 100,000+ API requests, CI/CD pipelines via GitHub Actions and Docker (reducing deployment time from 45 to 8 minutes with 100% success), and Azure cost optimization (35% savings with 99.9% uptime).
- Led AI-driven product development, creating context-aware AI agents for BI tasks (90% SQL generation accuracy across 100+ cases), developing the Miksi AI SDK (200+ downloads, zero critical bugs), and mentoring 2 junior developers who delivered features on time.
- Drove high-performing team collaboration, managing a cross-functional team of 3 to an 85% sprint completion rate, reducing bug reports by 40% through code reviews, and maintaining smooth development cycles.

Tech Skills: Python,Django, Azure, Langgraph, LangSmith,FastAPI Microservices, Github Actions,Celery,AzureOpenAI, OpenAIAPI

Zagreb, Croatia, Remote - Contract
Jun 2023 - Apr 2024

Dowell Research (HR and CRM)
Backend Engineer

- Engineered scalable backend systems by developing RESTful APIs and WebSocket connections for 1,000+ concurrent users, optimizing PostgreSQL queries (60% faster for 10,000+ daily requests), and reducing average response time from 800ms to 200ms.
- Implemented robust, real-time infrastructure with JWT authentication handling 50,000+ daily requests securely (zero breaches in 8 months), a WebSocket-based communication system via Django Channels supporting 5,000+ simultaneous connections at 99.9% uptime, and Swagger UI documentation that cut integration support tickets by 70%.
- Improved cross-team efficiency by bridging communication across remote teams in three time zones, leading a documentation-first workflow that reduced clarification meetings by 50%.

Tech Skills: Python, Django,Docker, Swagger UI,Channels,Celery,DjangoRestFramework, WebSockets, Redis, Daphne, HTMX

UK - Remote - Contract
Oct 2022 - May 2023

Freelance
Freelance Software Engineer

- Led end-to-end development of 8+ custom applications for diverse clients, maintaining 95% client satisfaction rate and 100% on-time delivery across all projects
- Architected and deployed scalable solutions using React, Node.js, and Python, reducing client operational costs and improving process efficiency
- Established autonomous project management framework, handling requirements gathering to deployment independently while maintaining zero scope creep across 15+ projects
- Implemented data-driven solutions through custom dashboards and analytics tools, enabling 3x faster decision-making for clients and achieving 90% user adoption rate

Remote - Freelance
May 2020 – Aug 2022

EDUCATION

Jomo Kenyatta University of Technology
Bachelor of Science in Computer Technology

Juja, Kenya

CERTIFICATIONS

API Security
API Sec University
Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, GitOps, Jenkins, Prometheus
LinkdIn Learning

[Link](#)
Nov 2024
[Link](#)
Nov 2024

LANGUAGES & INTERESTS

LANGUAGES: English C2.Swahili , Native

INTERESTS & HOBBIES: Deep Learning,Research in AI,Open Source,Soccer