

Carrier Board

A Nextwork.org Student DevOps Project

Building Transparency and Fairness in the Freight Brokering Industry

Executive Summary (TL;DR)

Carrier Board is a student-led, production-grade SaaS project developed through the Nextwork.org learning community. It solves a key imbalance in the freight industry: brokers and shippers can rate carriers, but carriers cannot rate brokers. Carrier Board introduces a two-way rating and review platform where truckers (carriers) can share their experiences with brokers and shippers, restoring fairness, accountability, and trust. Beyond solving a real-world logistics problem, this project also serves as a DevOps learning lab — where students collaborate on a cloud-deployed SaaS application, gaining practical experience with GitHub workflows, commits, CI/CD pipelines, and scalable software architecture.

1. The Problem

In the logistics world, relationships define success. Brokers manage loads, and carriers move them — but only brokers currently control the rating system (via sites like Broker411.com). This imbalance creates major issues: carriers have no platform to rate or warn about brokers, reputation and accountability flow in one direction, and new carriers face risk when working with unknown brokers. Carrier Board aims to correct that — by giving every participant in the supply chain a verified, transparent way to evaluate each other.

2. The Solution — Carrier Board

Carrier Board brings two-way transparency to freight logistics through an accessible, student-built SaaS platform. Core Features include: Two-Way Reviews for balanced accountability, Verified Accounts using DOT and MC number validation, Reputation Dashboard, Cloud-Native Architecture built for scalability, and future AI-Assisted Insights to detect fake reviews and trust trends. Carrier Board's long-term vision is to evolve from a proof of concept into a real, production-ready SaaS — designed, built, and deployed entirely by students.

3. Development Roadmap

Phase 1 – MVP Build: Assemble a Core DevOps Team of 6–8 Nextwork.org students, build the MVP, and deploy it via Docker and cloud hosting. Phase 2 – Production Rollout: Add authentication, role-based access, FMCSA/DOT API integration, and CI/CD. Phase 3 – Launch & Showcase: Release as a Nextwork.org student showcase project and publish documentation for portfolios.

4. Learning and Collaboration

For the Core DevOps Team: Lead system design, handle real GitHub commits, and practice true DevOps culture. For Any Nextwork Student Who Joins: Learn to code real-world components, contribute through GitHub, get reviews, and experience full-stack development. This project is open to anyone who wants hands-on experience in DevOps, cloud computing, and collaboration.

5. Vision and Educational Value

Carrier Board is both a practical logistics solution and a Nextwork learning experiment in modern DevOps collaboration. Key Learning Outcomes include: Practical DevOps Skills (CI/CD, cloud, Docker), Full-Stack Development, Team Workflow with Agile methods, and real-world portfolio development.

6. Call to Action

Students from Nextwork.org are invited to join the Core DevOps Team or contribute individual modules. Learn GitHub collaboration through real commits, issues, and pull requests. Add features, fix bugs, and help grow the platform. Even if participation is small, the project continues as a self-driven DevOps journey that turns knowledge into experience.

7. Founder's Reflection

Carrier Board started as a simple idea — to make the freight world fairer. But it's also my way to push my skills, learn real DevOps practices, and collaborate with other students who want to go beyond tutorials and build something real. Together, we can turn this into a working SaaS that represents what learning at Nextwork is all about — curiosity, collaboration, and creation.

— Student Developer & Project Lead, Carrier Board
Nextwork.org Learning Community