ÁQUILA FREITAS

Software Engineer

London, UK
+44 7577 002367
@ hi@aquilafreitas.com

aquilafreitas.com
github.com/aquilacf
linkedin.com/in/aquilacf

ABOUT ME

A dedicated Software Engineer with experience in fintech, backend development, infrastructure management, and some entrepreneurship. My career progression reflects the feedback by the managers and mentors I had and commitment to learning. Outside of work, I maintain an active lifestyle through regular gym sessions, playing football, and supporting my family, which reinforces my disciplined approach to continuous improvement. Having recently ventured into entrepreneurship, I learned how much there still is to improve.

LANGUAGES

Portuguese - native
English - proficient

EXPERIENCE

03/2024 - Present
London, UK

Founder & Software Engineer   OPENSHIRT LTD

Left Checkout to pursue entrepreneurship and experimented with React, C# . NET Blazor, ASP.NET Razor Pages and HTMX before settling on TypeScript + React + Vite + Shadcn for front-end, C# ASP.NET 9 Minimal APIs for back-end and .NET Aspire for local development.
Built the infrastructure with Terraform on AWS, where backend is hosted on ECS and exposed to the internet through a Cloudflare Tunnel and frontend is hosted on a S3 bucket behind CloudFront.
Implemented CQRS with Event Sourcing where events are persisted in DynamoDB and projections in SQLite with Entity Framework and Litestream backups.
Integrated ImageMagick for server-side image manipulation (example: background removal).
Generated HTTP clients (vendor APIs and frontend) with Kiota based on OpenAPI specification.
Engaged two freelancers (marketing and design) to support go-to-market efforts.
Integrated with Stripe for payment processing, MailKit for mailing and OpenTelemetry.
Despite solid technical foundation, was unable to secure sufficient sales to scale the business.

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C# / ASP.NET / CQRS / Event Sourcing / OTEL / Entity Framework / Docker
/ Terraform / AWS / TypeScript / React / Entrepreneurship
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05/2020 - 12/2023
London, UK

Software Engineer, Merchant Experience   CHECKOUT LTD

Migrated legacy services from .NET Core 3 to .NET 6 and refactored monoliths into microservices.
Maintained and enhanced the merchant onboarding tool and merchant application form; successfully automated compliance checks reducing human involvement and faster activation.
Replaced TeamCity/Cake with GitHub Actions, to lower costs and react faster to code changes.
Migrated internal configuration API to hight standard infrastructure without downtime.
Migration 15 services to new Octopus deployment instance ahead of schedule.
Designed and delivered Terraform infrastructure for critical services orchestrated by Spacelift, becoming the primary infrastructure point of contact for the team.
Authored cross-team components such as a generic Audit Logger (based on Elasticsearch + C# NuGet package) and a AWS Secrets Manager Rotator (Terraform + Python).
Wrote and maintained BDD tests using SpecFlow to ensure behavior-aligned development.
Contributed to minor frontend features using React and TypeScript.
Delivered multiple technical presentations at company-wide internal tech forums.
Pioneered the first end-to-end HTTPS-only service within the Merchant Experience department.
Established JSON Schema-based API standardisation to eliminate frontend/backend contract discrepancies, including the development of an algorithm to convert internal requirements API responses into JSON Schema without modifying upstream APIs.
Introduced GitHub Packages for NuGet and NPM, including company-wide documentation and adoption guides with corresponding GitHub Workflows.
Introduced ARM Fargate usage for cost efficiency, earning direct praise from company leadership.
Recognised by management for outperforming expectations of his role, delivering more than expected and demonstrating ownership across technical and product.

```
C# / ASP.NET / Terraform / AWS / CI/CD / Docker / Elasticsearch / NoSQL
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| 10/2018 - 05/2020 | **Software Engineer, Ecommerce Platforms** | CHECKOUT LTD |

10/2018 - 05/2020
London, UK

Software Engineer, Ecommerce Platforms   CHECKOUT LTD

Designed and launched the open-source Checkout PHP SDK from the ground up, integrating 22+ global payment methods; became forever top contributor to the project.
Built and maintained payment plugins for WooCommerce, Magento, OpenCart, Drupal Commerce, PrestaShop, Shopware, and Ubercart enabling seamless payment gateway integration.
Independently built a TypeScript-based middleware MVP in personal to bridge ecommerce platforms with Checkout's payment gateway; presented the concept to directors that resulted in the creation of a dedicated team and processed about $90 million in its first year.
Architected and maintained AWS infrastructure (Lambda, API Gateway, DynamoDB, S3, CloudFront, CloudWatch, Secrets Manager); introduced Terraform and led team-wide IaC adoption.
Implemented robust authentication flows (API Key, OAuth, JWT) and idempotency handling.
Enabled Checkout's integration with headless ecommerce platforms, enterprise partners like Uber and new products like Checkout Hosted Payment Pages.

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PHP  /  TypeScript  /  AWS  /  Terraform  /  Shopping Carts  /  CI/CD  /  NoSQL
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03/2016 - 10/2018
London, UK

Developer   DECIBEL INSIGHT LIMITED

Developed and maintained a high-performance API supporting real-time data services for customer behavior analytics across large-scale digital platforms.
Implemented caching strategies, including cache versioning, to ensure fast data retrieval and optimised system performance.
Integrated backend services on a responsive Single Page Application (SPA) built using TypeScript, Backbone.js, Marionette, and RequireJS.
Delivered a robust API that served as the backbone for Decibel Insight's visual analytics platform, powering real-time insights into on-site customer behavior.
Helped implement core systems behind a proprietary customer experience analytics product recognised with the Adobe Marketing Cloud Innovation Award (2015).

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PHP  /  SQL  /  TypeScript  /  Backbone.js  /  Marionette  /  RequireJS
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09/2014 - 10/2015
Lisbon, PT

Full Stack Developer   BELTRÃO COELHO LDA

Developed backend systems in PHP, with MySQL as the primary database.
Created interactive front-end components using jQuery for an intuitive user experience.
Participated in the full software development lifecycle—from architecture to deployment.
Successfully delivered a remote printer management platform that enhanced customer autonomy and reduced support overhead.
Gained practical experience in building enterprise tools for a niche but highly technical industry.

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PHP  /  SQL  /  JavaScript  /  jQuery
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06/2014 - 07/2014
Lisbon, PT

Web Developer, Internship   CAIXA MÁGICA SOFTWARE S.A

Developed a Python-based web crawler to identify and analyze web government pages for compliance with Law No. 36/2011 (RNID - July 21, Portugal).
Contributed to an open-source initiative promoting web accessibility and compliance with national standards.

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Python
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06/2013 - 07/2013
Lisbon, PT

2nd Line Support, Internship   TAP AIR PORTUGAL S.A

Provided technical support for both hardware and software issues across Linux and Windows.
Delivered remote support to Windows machines using Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP).
Gained hands-on experience in enterprise-level IT support and work ethics.

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Linux  /  Windows  /  Hardware
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EDUCATION

2017 - 2020
London, UK

Computing   Birkbeck, University of London

2016 - 2017
London, UK

Electrical and Electronic Engineering   London South Bank University

2011 - 2014
Lisbon, PT

Computer Specialist   Escola Sec. António Damásio

Level 5 Professional Certificate. Web development, Visual Basic .NET and Robotics.

CERTIFICATIONS

2024
London, UK

Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE)   Trinity College London