

Introduction

CareerStack is a modern portfolio and career management platform designed to help users create, customize, and share their professional identity in a digital-first world. Developed between June 2025 – August 2025 as part of a full-stack SaaS-style application initiative, the platform empowers students and professionals to build visually appealing resumes, upload supporting documents, and generate shareable portfolio links. It ensures ease of use through a clean UI, security with reliable authentication systems, scalability with modern frameworks and cloud storage, and readiness for future AI-powered enhancements like RAG-based search and a chatbot assistant. CareerStack provides an end-to-end solution for showcasing skills, achievements, and professional growth in a centralized, interactive platform.

Key Features

The dynamic portfolio builder allows users to create a personalized profile page including their name, bio, skills, and social links such as LinkedIn, GitHub, Twitter, and Gmail. Users can customize the design to update career milestones and achievements, while the responsive layout ensures smooth viewing on mobile, tablet, and desktop. Resume upload and preview functionality supports PDF uploads with validation and automatically generates a thumbnail of the first page using Cloudinary. Resumes are viewable directly in the dashboard. Cloud integration ensures secure storage of resumes and thumbnails, each generating a unique, shareable link. User authentication is secured via NextAuth.js v5 with Google OAuth and custom credentials, supported by JWT-based sessions. The centralized dashboard provides smooth CRUD operations for all career data, and users can export their portfolio or profile as a styled PDF using @react-pdf/renderer, maintaining clickable social links and consistent design.

Technology Stack

Frontend development uses Next.js 15 and React for a modern component-based architecture with server-side rendering, styled with Tailwind CSS, ShadCN UI components, and interactive animations via Framer Motion. The backend uses Next.js server actions and Node.js for server-side logic and API operations. Data is stored in PostgreSQL with Prisma ORM ensuring type-safe interactions. Authentication is handled with NextAuth.js v5, supporting Google OAuth and custom credentials, with JWT-based sessions. PDFs and thumbnails are stored on Cloudinary for optimized delivery, and the application is deployed on Vercel with serverless hosting.

Development Timeline

The project began with planning and setup in June 2025, defining the scope, designing the database schema, configuring authentication, and setting up the project structure. July focused on feature implementation, including the portfolio builder, resume upload with Cloudinary integration, thumbnail generation, and dashboard CRUD operations. In August 2025, PDF export was integrated, testing was conducted for responsiveness, uploads, and authentication, and the application was deployed. The platform was also prepared for AI integrations like a RAG system and a chatbot.

Achievements & Impact

CareerStack successfully deployed a fully functional web application for creating and sharing portfolios with real-time editing and preview features. Users can manage multiple PDFs, generate thumbnail previews, and export professional PDFs with links. The platform supports future premium subscriptions, analytics, and AI tools. Cloudinary, Prisma, and PostgreSQL provide reliable storage and data management, forming the foundation for AI-powered retrieval systems and a chatbot assistant. Centralized portfolio management saves time and enhances user engagement with a professional, interactive experience.

Future Scope

CareerStack plans to integrate an AI-powered RAG system for vector embeddings and semantic search, allowing users to ask questions like “Show projects involving React” or “List internships in 2025.” A conversational AI assistant will explain skills, achievements, and projects, provide portfolio/resume improvement suggestions, and offer insights through analytics dashboards. Premium features may include advanced resume templates, customized portfolio themes, and AI-powered feedback. The long-term vision is to transform CareerStack into a complete career companion with automated data syncing with LinkedIn, GitHub, and other platforms.