

Catalin Mihai Leca

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About Me

I am a senior software engineer with 7+ years of experience. I enjoy turning complex problems into simple solutions and focus on well-structured systems, measurable improvements and consistent delivery. I value ownership, practical decisions and building systems teams can easily extend.

Skills

Frontend: React.js, JavaScript, TypeScript, React Query, Redux, Next.js, Apollo, Storybook, Websockets, HTML5/CSS3

Backend: Node.js, Express, REST, GraphQL, NestJs, SQL, NoSQL

Infrastructure & Testing: AWS (Lambda, DynamoDB, S3, SQS), Docker, Jest, Cypress, Microservices, SaaS, System Design

Experience (7+ years)

Senior Software Engineer | Education First

June 2023 - Present

- Rearchitected a highly complex legacy CMS into a modular React system with defined patterns and internal guidelines, enhancing team onboarding, scalability and documentation.
- Initiated a shared UI library with the Design team, powered by Material UI and Storybook, integrated with Figma design tokens to ensure visual consistency and effortless scalability across platforms.
- Integrated AI Roleplay content from Storyblok into the course editor, building a clear data flow that lets authors attach AI conversation activities directly to lessons, improving authoring speed and reliability.
- Wrote Node.js scripts to detect and fix data inconsistencies caused by feature updates or legacy issues, ensuring accurate content.
- Built backend utilities for bulk operations and data validation, reducing manual maintenance and strengthening overall platform stability.

Senior Software Engineer | Financial Times

February 2022 - June 2023

- Reduced the number of systems' vulnerabilities by 90%, securing the team's ranking to the 1st place in the organization's leaderboard.
- Collaborated with the product team to design and deliver customer loyalty campaigns using AWS Lambda, DynamoDB and Node.js, significantly increasing the retention rates.
- Built and deployed scalable AWS SQS solution to manage consents and reroute all read/write operations, replacing DynamoDB and ensuring Redshift synchronization via webhook event listeners.
- Optimised platform's SEO by implementing best practices, increasing organic traffic by 10%.
- Built a new React/Next.js section featuring the most searched content of 2022, doubling user engagement.
- Mentored teammates through complex parts of the systems, helping them get up to speed quickly and take ownership of complex features.

Software Engineer | Vodafone Group

October 2020 - February 2022

- Built B2B user journeys in React with form flows connected to multiple systems, enabling new partners integrations.
- Migrated a legacy front-end architecture to modular services, improving scalability, maintainability and overall development efficiency.
- Enhanced the application security and UX by implementing a refresh token authentication flow integrated with CIAM.
- Accelerated onboarding by creating documentation and providing guidance, reducing setup time from weeks to days.
- Automated release workflows by setting up Jenkins CI/CD pipelines, increasing delivery reliability and reducing manual effort.

Earlier Roles | BearingPoint & Arnia Software

April 2018 - October 2020

- Developed core backend services with Node.js for 2021 SAP® Pinnacle Award-winning SaaS solution in the construction industry.
- Designed and launched an internal job scheduler / cron that cut project costs by ~€20k/year.
- Built a contract handover module to manage tools, equipment, resources with expense tracking, enhancing operational visibility.
- Migrated large front-end codebases to TypeScript, reducing bug reports and boosting maintainability. Added Kibana and SAP Logging for real-time monitoring and faster debugging.

Consulting & Technical Projects

Cybersecurity client

- Delivered fully owned React features for an enterprise security platform, MTTR severity filters, collector flow, audit log and vulnerability management tools. Enhanced dashboard speed and clarity while guiding implementation and architectural decisions.

Certifications

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate | 2023

Education

Bachelor of Computer Science | University of Bucharest | Bucharest | 2019