Cindy Kivala
Full Stack Software Engineer

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| https://github.com/cindy-kivala | Nairobi,Kenya

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Full-Stack Software Engineer and Scrum Master with 2+ years of proven expertise delivering AI-integrated enterprise applications using JavaScript ecosystem (React, Node.js, TypeScript) and Python. Led cross-functional teams to ship production-ready solutions with 100% sprint completion rates across 3 enterprise applications. Expert in MERN stack architecture, RESTful API design, and DevOps practices. Combines technical excellence with stakeholder communication, bridging software engineering with research and project management experience.

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TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: JavaScript (ES6+), TypeScript, Python, HTML5, CSS3, SQL

Frontend: React.js, Redux, Tailwind CSS, Bootstrap, Vite, MapboxGL, Responsive Web Design

Backend: Node.js, Express.js, Flask, RESTful APIs, JWT Authentication, WebSocket, Tesseract OCR

AI/Data: Natural Language Processing (NLP), Web Scraping, Beautiful Soup, Pandas, Data Analysis

Databases: PostgreSQL, MongoDB, SQLite, Redis, Database Optimization, Query Performance Tuning

DevOps/Tools: Git, GitHub, Docker, CI/CD Pipelines, Vercel, Render, Netlify, Postman, npm, Webpack

Cloud/Hosting: Cloudinary, SendGrid, JSON-Server, AWS (Familiarity)

Project Management: Agile/Scrum Methodologies, Jira, Trello, Asana, Sprint Planning, Backlog Grooming

Core Competencies: Full-Stack Development, API Architecture, Database Design, Team Leadership, Technical Documentation, Stakeholder Communication, Cross-Functional Collaboration

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Scrum Master & Project Coordinator
IndieCode Technologies | Nairobi, Kenya | June 2024 - Present

• Orchestrated agile ceremonies for 5-8 member cross-functional teams, achieving 100% sprint completion rate across 3 enterprise applications over 18+ consecutive sprints
• Accelerated team velocity by 45% through systematic removal of technical blockers, dependency mapping, and continuous process optimization initiatives
• Transformed stakeholder requirements into 200+ actionable development tasks using Jira and Trello, maintaining 98% backlog clarity and prioritization accuracy
• Coached 12 engineers on agile best practices, code review standards, and test-driven development workflows, reducing code defects by 30%
• Eliminated 35% of development bottlenecks through proactive dependency identification, daily stand-up refinements, and cross-team coordination
• Delivered IndieGames platform to production with zero critical defects, meeting all milestone deadlines across 6-month development cycle

• Generated data-driven sprint reports using burndown charts and velocity metrics, providing executive stakeholders with actionable insights for resource allocation

Researcher
Mbusyani Pharmacy Limited | Kenya | October 2023 - April 2024

• Analyzed and maintained database of 50,000+ pharmaceutical records, ensuring 100% regulatory compliance and data integrity across 18-month period
• Engineered data management systems improving record accuracy by 30% through automated validation rules, quality checks, and error detection algorithms
• Led cross-departmental projects coordinating 3 teams (Operations, Compliance, IT), maintaining 98% on-time delivery rate with zero critical delays
• Synthesized quantitative and qualitative research datasets into executive reports, directly influencing 5+ strategic business decisions
• Developed ethical research protocols and documentation standards adopted organization-wide, reducing audit findings by 40%
• Created automated reporting system that reduced manual data compilation time from 8 hours to 45 minutes per week

Legal Consultant
Nzilu Nzioka and Company Advocates | Kenya | April 2023 - August 2023

• Launched bilingual translation services initiative improving client satisfaction scores by 25% by bridging communication gaps for 50+ international clients
• Architected and deployed digital document workflow system managing 500+ legal case files with zero misplacements and 99.9% retrieval accuracy
• Collaborated with 5 attorneys on case strategy for 20+ active litigation cases, ensuring 100% on-time court submission rate across 4-month period
• Ensured 100% regulatory compliance through meticulous editing, quality assurance, and version control of 300+ legal documents
• Optimized multi-case scheduling system, reducing attorney conflict time by 35% and improving resource allocation efficiency

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TECHNICAL PROJECTS

ReelBrief – Creative Project Management SaaS Platform
Tech Stack: React, Flask, PostgreSQL, Cloudinary, SendGrid, JWT | October 2025
Live: https://reel-brief-frontend.vercel.app/ | GitHub: [https://github.com/cindy-kivala/ReelBrief-Frontend]

• Architected full-stack SaaS platform connecting creative agencies with vetted freelancers, managing end-to-end project lifecycle for 100+ users
• Implemented JWT authentication with role-based access control (RBAC) for 3 user types (clients, freelancers, admins), including secure email verification and password reset flows
• Built automated freelancer vetting pipeline processing CV uploads (PDF/DOCX) with Tesseract OCR integration, admin approval workflows, and real-time availability tracking
• Engineered intelligent project matching algorithm using skill-based filtering, availability checks, confidentiality rules, and weighted scoring system
• Developed version-controlled deliverable management with Cloudinary CDN integration, supporting automatic file versioning, side-by-side comparison UI, and rollback capabilities
• Created escrow payment module with admin-held funds, milestone-based release triggers, dispute resolution workflows, and complete transaction audit trails
• Automated 10+ email notification workflows using SendGrid API for user onboarding, project deadlines, payment confirmations, and status updates
• Deployed frontend on Vercel and backend API on Render with automated CI/CD pipelines, achieving 99.7% uptime and under 300ms average response time

• Built comprehensive RESTful API documentation using Flasgger with interactive testing interface for seamless developer onboarding

Cartify - Full-Stack E-Commerce Platform
Tech Stack: React, Flask, PostgreSQL, Redux, Stripe API | September 2025 | GitHub: [https://github.com/cindy-kivala/Cartify-Frontend]

• Developed production-ready e-commerce application with secure JWT authentication, shopping cart persistence, and real-time inventory synchronization
• Optimized PostgreSQL database schema with strategic indexing and query optimization, reducing average page load time by 40% (from 2.1s to 1.2s)
• Implemented Redux state management architecture for seamless client-side navigation, cart persistence, and optimistic UI updates across 15+ routes
• Deployed on Netlify (frontend) and Render (backend) with load balancing, handling 500+ concurrent users with 99.2% uptime over 3-month period
• Integrated Stripe payment gateway simulation, order tracking system, automated email notifications, and admin analytics dashboard
• Built RESTful API with 20+ endpoints supporting product catalog, user management, order processing, and sales reporting

Fitness Logger Application
Tech Stack: Python, SQLite, Click CLI Framework | August 2025 | GitHub: [https://github.com/cindy-kivala/Fitness-Logger-App]

• Built command-line fitness tracking application with data visualization, progress analytics, and goal-setting features for personal health management
• Designed normalized database schema (3NF) with optimized composite indexing, improving complex query performance by 60%
• Implemented complete CRUD operations supporting 10,000+ workout records with secure user authentication, session management, and statistical reporting
• Created data visualization module generating weekly/monthly progress charts, calorie tracking, and exercise frequency analysis

IndieGames - Game Discovery Platform
Tech Stack: React, JSON-Server, JavaScript, REST APIs | July 2025
Live: https://indiegames-db.netlify.app/ | GitHub: [https://github.com/cindy-kivala/IndieGames]

• Developed full-stack React application for browsing and favoriting indie games with advanced search, filtering, and sorting capabilities
• Built custom JSON-Server REST API managing database of 1,000+ game entries with automated CI/CD deployment pipeline
• Integrated third-party gaming APIs (RAWG, Steam) for real-time data enrichment, ratings aggregation, and dynamic content updates
• Implemented responsive design serving 200+ monthly active users with mobile-first approach and 95+ Lighthouse performance score

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EDUCATION

- Full-Stack Software Engineering Bootcamp
Moringa School | Nairobi, Kenya | November 2025
Intensive 6-month program covering: Data Structures, Algorithms, Object-Oriented Programming, RESTful APIs, Database Design, Agile Methodologies, Test-Driven Development, Git Workflows

- Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy
The Technical University of Kenya | December 2023 | Second Upper Class Honors

Relevant Coursework: Research Methods, International Law, Economics, Conflict Resolution, Foreign Policy Analysis, Statistical Analysis

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CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Completed:
• Full-Stack Software Engineering Certificate - Moringa School (November 2025)

In Progress:
• Certified Scrum Master (CSM) - Scrum Alliance (Expected: January 2026)
• Generative AI for Software Developers – Moring School(Expected: December 2025)

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LANGUAGES

English: Native Proficiency (C2)
Swahili: Native Proficiency (C2)

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VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Peer Mentor
Moringa School Alumni Network | Nairobi, Kenya | November 2025 - Present

• Mentor 5 junior developers in JavaScript fundamentals, React best practices, and technical interview preparation
• Conduct bi-weekly code review sessions, improving mentee code quality and debugging skills

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ACHIEVEMENTS

• Top Performer: Graduated in top 10% of Full-Stack Engineering cohort at Moringa School
• Project Excellence: Menta, a mental health app, won Best Technical Presentation at a hackathon
• Open Source: Active contributor to developer community with portfolio projects garnering 50+ GitHub stars combined

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HOBBIES & INTERESTS

• Open-Source Contribution: Contributing to JavaScript and Python open-source projects on GitHub
• Tech Community: Attending Nairobi tech meetups and staying current with emerging technologies
• Continuous Learning: Exploring cloud architecture (AWS/Azure), microservices design patterns, and system design principles
• Problem Solving: Participating in LeetCode challenges and algorithm optimization exercises

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

• Available for immediate start for full-time software engineering and Scrum Master roles
• Legally authorized to work in Kenya with no restrictions
• Open to relocation within East Africa or internationally for qualifying opportunities

- Willing to work remotely or in hybrid arrangements
- Professional references available upon request