HABTU DESSIE

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JUNIOR FULL-STACK DEVELOPER

React | Node.js | Express | MySQL | MongoDB | JavaScript | HTML | CSS

Junior full-stack developer with hands-on experience building responsive, data-driven web apps and REST APIs. Part-time, remote volunteer contributor to multi-team projects, delivering features end-to-end in React/Node stacks. Brings 17+ years of senior finance & accounting leadership (GAAP/IFRS, controls, automation) that translates into strong data modeling, reliability, and on-time delivery.

Core Strengths

- Feature ownership (ticket → deploy), code reviews, clean Git hygiene
- Secure auth (JWT), input validation, error handling, environment configuration
- SQL/Mongo schema design, pagination, search, efficient API queries
- Deployments to Netlify/Render/Hostinger (OpenLiteSpeed); CI-friendly structures
- Product sense: accessibility, responsive UX, and performance optimizations

Technical Skills

Front End: React, React Router, Vite, HTML5, CSS3, Bootstrap
Back End: Node.js, Express, REST APIs, JWT, bcrypt
Databases: MySQL, MongoDB (Mongoose), SQL design & query optimization
Dev Tools: Git/GitHub, VS Code, npm/yarn, Postman, Axios, Netlify, Render, Hostinger/OpenLiteSpeed
Data/Analytics (bonus): Power BI, Python, R, Advanced Excel (Pivot, Index/Match)

Selected Projects

Evangadi Forum — Full-Stack Q&A Platform | React, Vite, Node.js, Express, MySQL, JWT, Axios

- Built secure auth (register/login), protected routes, and role-based middleware; implemented question/answer CRUD with validation.

- Designed normalized schema (users, questions, answers, votes) and REST controllers; added pagination, search, and optimistic UI updates.
- Deployed front end & API; resolved CORS, 404/403/500 errors, and Hostinger (OpenLiteSpeed) routing & environment config.
- **Demo:** habjalevangadiforum.com

Netflix Clone 2025 — Streaming Catalog UI | React (Vite), React Router, Custom Hooks, Axios, TMDB-style API

- Implemented modular components (rows, carousels), search/filter, lazy loading, and skeleton states for fast perceived performance.
- Centralized state (watchlist/favorites), debounced search, and resilient API layer with retry/backoff and error toasts.
- **Demo:** habjal.github.io/NetflixClone-2025

Amazon Clone 2025 — E-commerce Flow | React, Node.js, Express, Stripe (test), Context/Reducer, MySQL/MongoDB

- Built cart, checkout, order creation, and Stripe payment intents; guarded routes and persisted sessions.
- Implemented product catalog with categories, ratings, and inventory; admin utilities for product CRUD and order status.
- **Demo:** amazonclone-habtu.netlify.app

Apple Website Clone — Marketing/Launch Experience | React, Vite, Framer Motion, CSS Modules/SCSS

- Recreated Apple-style landing pages with sticky nav, hero video, device sections, parallax scroll, and micro-interactions.
- Ensured accessibility and responsive layouts; optimized media loading and CLS.
- **Repo:** github.com/Ekhlas61/-appleClone • **Demo:** *(add link if hosted)*

Puppy Project — Pet Adoption/Listing App | React, Node.js, Express, MongoDB (Mongoose), Multer

- Designed REST API for pets, breeds, favorites; added filters (age, size, location) and saved searches.
- Implemented secure image uploads, form validation, and owner dashboard for managing listings.
- **Repo:** https://github.com/habjal/PuppyLoversPage.git • **Demo:** *(add link if hosted)*

Projects at a Glance: Evangadi Forum (Auth/RBAC • Q/A CRUD • search • Hostinger deploy) • Netflix (carousels • lazy load • watchlist) • Amazon (cart/checkout • Stripe • admin) • Apple (animations • responsive) • Puppy (listings • filters • image upload)

Volunteer & Recent Developer Experience

Junior Full-Stack Developer (Volunteer, Remote) — Various Teams | 2023–Present

- Build features in agile squads: create API endpoints, connect MySQL/MongoDB, and implement React pages with form validation & error states.
- Write clean, modular code; open PRs with meaningful commits, reviews, and unit-tested helpers.
- Stand up deployments on Netlify/Render/Hostinger (OpenLiteSpeed); configure environments and CORS; troubleshoot 404/403/500s and router mismatches.
- Implement secure middleware (auth, rate-limit), logging, and request validation for reliability.

Web Developer — Morningstar Trading PLC | Feb 2023–Present

- Delivered responsive pages, component libraries, and CMS integrations; improved Lighthouse performance and accessibility.
- Collaborated on backlog grooming, issue triage, and iteration planning with stakeholders.

Tooling & Practices

- **Quality:** PR reviews, linting/Prettier, semantic commits, issue templates
- **Security:** JWT, bcrypt, input sanitization, CORS policy, .env hygiene
- **Ops:** Build scripts, environment parity (dev/stage/prod), logs & health checks
- **Testing:** Unit-tested helpers/utilities; Postman collections for API verification

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Finance/Accounting Experience (Transferable Impact)

Senior Program Financial Manager — World Vision Inc. (Washington, DC) | Dec 2020–Present

- Automated reporting workflows and designed internal controls; applied engineering-style rigor for reliability and audit trails.
- Led cross-functional delivery; ensured data integrity and timely reporting via process automation and stakeholder alignment.
- Relevance to dev: data modeling, ETL-like pipelines, security mindset, measurable delivery.

Program Financial Analyst — Ipas Inc. (Chapel Hill, NC) | Nov 2018–Jun 2020

- Built forecasting models, donor reporting pipelines, and compliance checks; delivered timely, accurate outputs.

Senior Finance Manager — African Society for Laboratory Medicine (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) | Sep 2017–Jan 2018

- Managed multi-region operations; optimized processes; mentored staff for execution at scale.

Country Financial Manager — Mercy Corps (Ethiopia) | Nov 2016–Aug 2017

- Oversaw $63M USAID and £4M DFID budgets; implemented transparent budgeting & forecasting systems; delivered monthly reports with actionable insights.

Finance & Compliance Manager — Population Services International (South Sudan) | Jan 2013–Sep 2016

- Directed $75M Global Fund and £13M DFID programs; burn-rate analysis; partner capacity building; audit remediation and process improvements.

Global Project & Systems Management — 30 Countries, Multi-Time-Zone

Scope & Footprint: Led complex, multi-year portfolios across ~30 countries and regions—including Afghanistan, Ukraine, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Peru, Indonesia, Senegal, Pakistan, India, North Korea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and the U.S.—coordinating delivery across North America, Africa, Asia, and LATAM time zones.

Portfolio & Delivery Leadership

- Directed full **project lifecycle** (initiation → planning → execution → monitoring → close-out) for concurrent country projects; set integrated roadmaps, budgets, milestones, and acceptance criteria.
- Built lightweight **PMO discipline** (RAID logs, RACI, change control, dependency tracking) to improve predictability and on-time delivery.
- Ran **follow-the-sun** cadences to keep work moving 24/5 without burnout; aligned country offices and HQ on scope, SLAs, and decision rights.

Government Contracts & Compliance

- Managed several **U.S. Department of State** contracts and multi-donor awards; aligned SOWs, KPIs, and reporting calendars to funding and regulatory requirements.
- Embedded **internal controls** (COSO-aligned) and audit-ready documentation across regions; partnered with compliance and internal audit to remediate issues quickly.

Systems, Data, and Process Enablement

- **Launched a new accounting/ERP system** (configuration, data migration, UAT, cutover, hypercare) across multiple regions; standardized COA and business rules with local compliance.
- Built **data pipelines & reporting** (Power BI/Advanced Excel) for burn rate, variance, and forecast dashboards; automated reconciliations to reduce cycle time.
- Implemented **role-based access** and segregation-of-duties safeguards; codified environment and data-handling practices.

Training, Onboarding & Change Management

- Led **onboarding and training** for Finance, Accounting, IT, Program Managers, and C-suite leaders; authored SOPs, playbooks, and video walkthroughs.
- Facilitated **UAT workshops** and feedback loops; prioritized fixes/enhancements; tracked adoption with health metrics (completion, accuracy, cycle time).

Cross-Functional & Time-Zone Collaboration

- Orchestrated delivery with **Finance, Accounting, IT, Programs, and Executive leadership**; translated business needs into technical requirements and sequenced work across time zones.
- Established escalation paths and decision logs to accelerate unblockers and manage vendor/country dependencies.

Results & Impact

- **Process Improvement:** Recovered **$1,500,000** via fraud detection and stronger controls.
- **Leadership:** Managed and closed out **$630M** in grants; mentored **15+** staff with succession planning.
- **Global Collaboration:** Worked across **25+ countries** (including Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and the U.S.) with excellent async communication and documentation discipline.
- Delivered multi-country go-lives with controlled cutovers and minimal downtime; shortened financial close cycles and improved data reliability.

Tooling: SAP / Oracle / Workday / Dynamics NAV; Power BI; Advanced Excel; SharePoint/Teams; Git/GitHub (versioned SOPs/templates); ticketing/issue trackers.

Education

- **MSc, Data Science** — McDaniel College (MD, USA)
- **MBA, Enterprise & Resource Planning (SAP)** — Maharishi International University (IA, USA)
- **MBA, Strategic Management** — International Cambridge College (NJ, UK)
- **BA, Accounting** — Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia)

Training & Certifications

- **Full-Stack Development Bootcamp** — Evangadi Networks (2025): HTML, CSS, JS, Node, Express, MySQL, React, REST
- **ACCA Member (UK) • CPA Candidate** — Virginia Board of Accountancy

Additional

- **Languages:** English, Amharic
- **Finance Tools:** SAP, Oracle, Workday, Dynamics NAV, Lawson ERP, SUN, SAP BO, Predictive Analytics
- **Soft Skills:** Stakeholder communication, agile collaboration, requirements gathering, UAT planning & execution