NILAKSHI NAGRALE

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Summary

Full-stack Software Engineer with **2** years of experience building scalable applications on the **MERN stack**. Proven track record in real-time systems, **microservices** architecture, and reducing API latency by **30%** through **Kafka & Redis**. Strong record of **99.9% system reliability** in production environments. (Current MS in CS student at USC; expected graduation: May 2026)

Experience

Volkswagen Group Technology Solutions | *Software Engineer*　　　　　　　　　　**Aug 2022 – June 2024**

- Designed scalable microservices handling high-volume concurrent data workflows using **Node.js, Express.js, React, MongoDB & AWS**, improving throughput by **35%**
- Built **RESTful APIs** using **Express.js** and integrated them with React front-end components, reducing end-to-end processing time by **30%**
- Implemented **event-driven** data pipelines using **Kafka & Redis,** achieving **99.9%** message delivery reliability across distributed systems
- Drove system observability by establishing **unit & integration testing** standards, reducing production incidents by **20%**

Projects

BidSync: Real-Time Auction Platform | *Java, React/Typescript, PostgreSQL*　　　　🔗 **July 2025**

- Developed a real-time auction platform using **Java/Spring Boot & React**; utilized **WebSockets** to maintain latency under **150ms** for **50+** concurrent users
- Automated CI/CD pipelines using **Docker** and GitHub Actions, reducing deployment time by **90%** & improving release reliability

Commons – AI-Powered Student Networking Platform | *MongoDb, React, Node.js, Tailwind CSS*　　🔗 **Jan 2025**

- Built a full-stack campus networking platform using React, Node.js, Express & MongoDB with AI-driven peer recommendations via Google Gemini API
- Implemented .edu email verification, advanced filtering, and real-time messaging; designed and prototyped UI in Figma using Tailwind CSS
- Secured **'Best Hack in Tech'** at AthenaHacks 2025

Technical Skills

Programming : JavaScript, Python
Backend & Distributed Systems : NodeJS, Express.js, Apache Kafka, REST APIs
Frontend Web Development : React, Angular, HTML5, CSS3, Typescript, Vue.js, Figma
Cloud & DevOps : AWS (EC2, S3), Docker, CI/CD (Jenkins), Git, GCP
Database : PostgreSQL, Microsoft SQL Server, MongoDB (NoSQL), Redis

Education

University of Southern California　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**Aug. 2024 – May 2026**
Master of Science in Computer Science　　　　　　　　　　　　　*Los Angeles, California, USA*

Mumbai University　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**Aug. 2018 – May 2022**
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　*Mumbai, India*

Achievements

- Awarded **'VW Group Essentials Award'** (**Top 0.2% of 1,400+**) for technical leadership & high-impact contributions (Q3 2023)