Omar Castorena

Software Engineer
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Software engineer with an M.S. in Computer Science (Cybersecurity) and 6 years at IBM building firmware in C and full-stack apps using Java EE, Dojo, React, and Node.js. Skilled in bridging hardware and software to deliver secure, scalable systems.

Work Experience

Software Engineer — IBM — Sep 2019 – Current

- Developed and maintained regular firmware in C for enterprise tape library systems, enabling reliable hardware control and diagnostics.
- Built and supported full-stack web applications using Java EE and JavaScript/Dojo, with contributions to modernization efforts using React and Node.js/Express.
- Led remediation of penetration test findings, coordinating across security, firmware, and web teams to address vulnerabilities and ensure compliance.
- Served as Scrum Master for cross-functional Agile teams, facilitating sprints, stand-ups, and backlog grooming to deliver features on time and improve team velocity.
- Investigated and resolved complex issues across firmware and software layers, enhancing system stability and customer satisfaction.

Munitions Technician — United States Air Force — Jan 2012 – Mar 2017

- Maintained, assembled, and inspected a wide range of munitions systems with strict adherence to safety and technical protocols.
- Operated and maintained electronic tracking systems for inventory control, ensuring 100% accountability of sensitive assets.
- Interpreted and followed detailed technical manuals and procedures to safely handle explosive materials and support mission readiness.
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams to coordinate logistics, storage, and deployment of munitions in high-pressure environments.
- Trained and mentored junior personnel in safety procedures, equipment handling, and process compliance, enhancing operational efficiency.

Education

M.S. Computer Science (Cybersecurity) — Arizona State University — Aug 2022 – Oct 2024

B.S. Computer Science — Regis University — Aug 2014 – Dec 2020

Skills

React | Node.js | Java EE | TypeScript | Redux Toolkit | PostgreSQL | Express | RESTful APIs | C Programming | Penetration Test Remediation | Secure Coding Practices | Agile/Scrum

Certifications

Cybersecurity Professional Certification Arizona State University – Issued Oct 2024

Software Engineering Professional Certification Arizona State University – Issued Oct 2024

IBM Software Engineer Apprenticeship Certificate IBM – Issued Sep 2020

Projects

Simplified Social Media Frontend **Reddit Lite**

Built a responsive front-end Reddit clone with post browsing, search, and comment viewing. Used React, Redux Toolkit, Tailwind CSS, and Webpack for clean architecture and responsive UI.

Repo: github.com/ocastorena/reddit-lite

Full-Stack Online Store **E-Commerce App Platform**

Developed a full-stack e-commerce platform with user authentication, product catalog, cart, and Stripe checkout. Used React, Node.js, PostgreSQL, Passport.js, and Swagger for API documentation.

Repo: github.com/ocastorena/e-commerce-app-frontend , github.com/ocastorena/e-commerce-app-backend