Mladen Ruzicic

ruzicic@gmail.com | mladenruzicic.com | in/ruzicic

Product and engineering leader with a decade of hands-on experience in startups and large orgs. I thrive at the intersection of product vision and execution, driving UX, developer productivity, and cross-team alignment.

Experience

Global Product Owner and Engineering Leader, ZF   Oct 2023 – present

Joined ZF SCALAR as a Senior Software Engineer and quickly took on increasingly strategic roles, from platform engineering to managing teams and ultimately driving global product direction.

- Started as a Senior Software Engineer, contributing to critical platform migration projects and identifying gaps in our UI tooling and developer workflows.
- Proposed and bootstrapped Velocity, a company-wide design system and component library, acting as both technical lead and de facto product owner.
- Promoted to UI Platform Engineer, then Engineering Manager, leading a 5-person team. Delivered Velocity to 11+ teams, with 100% adoption of core components.
- Transitioned to Global Product Owner for 3 commercial vehicle driver products (mobile + in-vehicle apps), used by 100k+ drivers globally.
- Led cross-functional strategy, roadmap, and delivery across 40+ engineers in globally distributed teams, aligning product vision, UX consistency, and developer experience across platforms.

Senior Software Developer, Shopify   Apr 2021 – May 2023

Worked on the Shop.app, built and maintained cross-platform (**React** and **React Native)** apps. Collaborated with Engineering, UX, Product, and Marketing to design and build new frontend and mobile solutions.
My responsibilities included engaging with stakeholders, system design architecture, writing technical documentation, and conducting thorough code reviews daily.

- Developed and refined the cutting-edge Shop Minis platform and SDK, featuring a suite of CLI tools and React Native components designed to integrate seamlessly with third-party developers' apps.
- Streamlined the submission and testing of third-party apps processes through GitHub App and Actions automation
- Conducted 30+ technical interviews for senior-level positions to evaluate and select top-tier candidates aligned with the company's mission

Career Coach & Mentor, MentorCruise   Oct 2021 – present

Top 3% mentor among 6,000+ mentors. Coached 60+ mentees in Career and Web Development, with 44 five-star reviews for mentorship impact. (mentors.to/ruzicic)

Senior Full Stack Developer, HEGIAS AG `Jul 2020 — Apr 2021`

Led a 6-engineer full-stack team. I was responsible for migrating a legacy JavaScript app to a multi-tenant architecture with **React** and **TypeScript**. In addition, I organized internal hands-on **Git workshops** and implemented several **CI/CD** automated processes on **GitLab**, including cross-repository package updates.
- Enhanced server response time by migrating a monolithic Node.js application to an event-driven architecture utilizing **AWS Pub/Sub** messaging.
- Developed an incremental migration strategy for transitioning from a legacy setup to a new system.
- Implemented a comprehensive design system utilizing Styled Components and released it as an independent UI library used across various internal projects.

Front End Developer, WolkAbout `Jul 2017 — Jun 2020`

Contributed to core internal and client-facing apps. Leveraged **Angular, TypeScript, RxJS, Web Sockets, Jest,** and **Jenkins** to actively participate in core product development. Noteworthy achievements include:
- Initiated, architected, and led the development and maintenance of the WolkAbout SDK, ensuring seamless integration with the WolkAbout ecosystem.
- Led the development of Ready2Wash, a widely adopted client-facing app for self-service car wash stations, serving a substantial customer base.
- Led a team of four professionals in developing a Hybrid dApp, combining **React, Solidity, Ethereum,** and **Truffle** to deliver a cutting-edge solution.
- Individually developed the X-Cloud mobile app, a secure cloud storage solution built with React Native and available on both the Play Store and App Store.

Front End Developer, Execom `Feb 2016 — Jul 2017`

Contributed to the Web team's success by actively participating in the development of various internal and client-facing applications. Demonstrated notable progress in technical expertise and cultivated strong client relationships. Key accomplishments:
- Had an essential role in developing and enhancing the company's official website, ensuring an engaging and informative online presence.
- Played a pivotal role in developing multiple microservices and internal tools, utilizing Angular, Node.js, Express.js, Koa.js, MQTT, and Redis to deliver scalable and efficient solutions.

Skills

JavaScript · TypeScript · React · React Native · Node.js · Tailwind · Web Architecture · Design Systems · Developer Experience · Product Roadmapping · Product Discovery · Team Leadership · Technical Strategy · Mobile Apps · Cross-platform Development · UX