

Zelalem Hailekirstos

Senior Full Stack Engineer

zolateklu@gmail.com | +251923407002 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | [LinkedIn](#) | [GitHub](#)

Profile

Senior Full Stack Engineer with 5+ years of experience building scalable software platforms and cloud-native systems. Experienced in taking products from concept to production, leading technical decisions, and delivering reliable software in fast-paced environments.

Professional Experience

Sabi LLC | Addis Ababa

Lead Software Engineer (Part-time) *Sep 2021 – Present*

- Led system design and architectural decision-making across multiple products, defining scalable backend, frontend, and cloud architectures aligned with long-term business objectives.
- Designed and evolved the platform from a modular monolith toward service-oriented and event-driven architectures as system complexity and team size increased.
- Defined API contracts, data models, and inter-service communication patterns, improving maintainability and reducing cross-team dependencies.
- Established cloud architecture standards (deployment models, scaling strategies, security boundaries), improving reliability and reducing operational incidents.
- Evaluated architectural trade-offs (monolith vs microservices, synchronous vs asynchronous communication) to balance development velocity, cost, and scalability.
- Led and mentored engineering teams through code reviews, testing standards, and best practices, improving code quality and team productivity.
- Delivered major software initiatives on time and within budget, achieving a reduction in budget overruns and strengthening delivery reliability.

Kemer Habesha | California (Remote)

Lead Full Stack Developer *Jan 2022 – August 2026*

- Led system design and implementation of backend services and APIs with a focus on scalability, maintainability, and secure data access.
- Designed and implemented a serverless architecture for core workloads, improving scalability and reducing infrastructure costs.
- Defined REST API standards and service boundaries, improving interoperability with external systems and reducing integration effort.
- Built and enforced authentication and authorization mechanisms, resulting in zero reported security incidents in production.
- Established CI/CD pipelines and deployment workflows, reducing feature release cycles and improving deployment reliability.
- Collaborated with product and design teams to deliver responsive, user-centric interfaces, increasing user satisfaction.

iPick | Addis Ababa

Backend Developer *Jul 2021 – Dec 2022*

- Maintained and extended a legacy PHP-based backend powering a ride-hailing system

- Implemented new features across driver, rider, and admin systems, improving overall platform functionality and reliability
- Worked with MySQL to design, optimize, and maintain queries for core operations (rides, users, transactions)
- Diagnosed and resolved production issues, improving reliability and reducing recurring bugs
- Integrated and maintained RESTful APIs used by mobile and web clients
- Collaborated with frontend and mobile teams to ensure consistent data flow and feature delivery
- Improved performance in critical endpoints through query optimization and code refactoring

Tigu Tech | Addis Ababa

Web Developer Aug 2019 – Sep 2021

- Collaborated with cross-functional teams to translate business requirements into scalable technical solutions, improving delivery efficiency.
- Designed and implemented a microservices-based backend architecture, reducing component coupling and decreasing system downtime.
- Developed single-page applications using React and Redux, improving frontend performance and reducing performance-related user issues.
- Implemented responsive UI designs to ensure consistent behavior across devices, increasing user engagement.
- Introduced CI/CD pipelines to automate testing and deployments, reducing deployment time and improving system stability.

Core Technologies

Languages: TypeScript, JavaScript, Python, PHP

Frontend: React, Next.js (App Router, Server Components), Vue.js, Nuxt.js, Tailwind CSS, ShadCN UI

Backend: Node.js, Express.js, NestJS, FastAPI, Django, REST, GraphQL, Apollo Server/Client

Databases: PostgreSQL, MongoDB, MySQL, Redis, AWS RDS, DynamoDB

Cloud & DevOps: AWS (ECS/Fargate, RDS/Aurora, S3), GCP, Azure, Docker, Kubernetes, Vercel, Netlify, CI/CD

AI & LLM: OpenAI API, Claude API, Gemini API, LangChain, LangGraph, Pinecone, V0 AI SDK

Testing: Jest, Vitest, Playwright, Cypress, Unit & Integration Testing

Architecture: Microservices, Event-Driven Systems, Serverless, Modular Monoliths, Monorepo

Auth & Security: OAuth 2.0, JWT, Auth0, API Security

Education

BSc in Software Engineering — Addis Ababa Science & Technology University

Additional Information

- Experience working in startup environments with full product ownership
- Strong focus on performance, scalability, and maintainable system design
- Comfortable working remotely and collaborating across distributed teams