JOÃO FORJA

Product Engineer | Full-Stack Software Engineer

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SUMMARY

Software Engineer with 10 years of experience turning ambiguous customer problems into reliable products. Combines frontend engineering depth with full-stack delivery and strong product and design judgment. Most recently built Sherlock AI's frontend from scratch and owned customer-facing work across product direction, backend services, data, applied AI, user feedback, and support.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Product: Requirements shaping | End-to-end ownership | User outreach | Customer support | Interaction design
Frontend: React | TypeScript | JavaScript | Next.js | React Native | HTML | CSS | Frontend architecture | Design systems | Accessibility | Automated testing
Backend, data, and AI: Node.js | API design | PostgreSQL | SQL | Data modeling | Authentication | MongoDB | AI model integration | Prompting | Benchmarking
Infrastructure: AWS | Docker | CI/CD

EXPERIENCE

Senior Full Stack Engineer
Mar 2024 - May 2026
Sherlock Protocol

- Owned all frontend implementation for Sherlock AI from its beginning, building the Next.js and TypeScript product in a four-to-five-engineer startup with no dedicated PM, collaborating directly with the CTO on engineering and the CEO on product direction.
- Owned Auditor Portfolio end to end, designing and building data ingestion from leading Web3 security platforms, backend integration, and unified public profiles; interviewed auditors about adoption barriers and handled support and data-quality issues directly.
- Delivered features end to end across UI, APIs, backend services, data models, authentication, AI model integration, prompting, and benchmarking.
- Built Sherlock's real-time judging application, enabling judges to assess vulnerabilities as they were submitted and reducing the time required to complete audit-contest judging phases.

Senior Software Engineer
Mar 2023 - Aug 2023
Edgelabs UK

- Built a React Native client for a video-streaming product and contributed to an API designed to support multiple streaming clients.

Senior Full Stack Engineer
Mar 2022 - Nov 2022
Synthesis

- Built a teacher session-management portal, led a new student-facing frontend, helped steer the company's design system, and mentored engineers through pairing, code reviews, and technical guidance.

Senior Frontend Engineer
Apr 2021 - Dec 2021
Templafy

- Identified recurring race conditions, stale results, and inconsistent loading behavior caused by ad hoc client-side data fetching.
- Initiated and built reusable React hooks that became the standard approach for more than 50 engineers, reducing repeated product code and eliminating a recurring class of request-lifecycle bugs.
- Built responsive, accessible layout foundations and design-system components and introduced bug post-mortems to turn recurring defects into architectural improvements.

Teaching Assistant - Advanced Software Design Web Course
Mar 2021 - Feb 2022
James Koppel

- Mentored engineers through code reviews and technical guidance on design tradeoffs, refactoring, and maintainability.

Freelance Web Developer
Nov 2019 - Apr 2021
Freelancer / Self-employed

- Built React applications for a pharmaceutical startup and B2B marketplace while gathering requirements and planning milestones with clients.

Business Consultant / Lead Software Engineer
Nov 2016 - Dec 2019
Challenge.IT, Lda

- Led 10+ custom software projects from requirements through production and mentored engineers through pairing, code reviews, and technical guidance; assumed project leadership approximately one year after joining.
- Worked across React, TypeScript, Node.js, MongoDB, and SQL and introduced behavior-driven development for requirements and acceptance checks.

SELECTED PROJECTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Excalidraw | Independent Open-Source Contributor
Shipped eight merged contributions to Excalidraw across canvas zoom, resizing, selection, and element binding.

Rent-a-car digital kiosk | Lead Developer
Led a self-service rental kiosk from requirements through React, internal API integrations, AWS, Docker, and deployment.

EDUCATION

BSc in Computer Engineering | ISEL - Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa