Aref Rafei
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Backend-focused Software Engineer with 5+ years of experience building production systems across Java, NestJS, Go, PostgreSQL, and AWS. Built and scaled a marketplace to 200K+ users and designed event-driven services using Kafka, BullMQ, WebSockets, and Redis. Currently developing enterprise Java applications at Redwood Software, with strong end-to-end ownership from architecture and database design to testing and deployment.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages	Java, TypeScript, Go, Python, Dart
Backend	Spring Boot, NestJS, REST APIs, Kafka, BullMQ, WebSockets, SSE, Microservices, DDD
Data	PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Redis, Elasticsearch, Prisma, Supabase
Frontend & Mobile	React, Next.js, Flutter, BLoC, Clean Architecture, Drift
Cloud & DevOps	AWS (Cognito, S3, EC2), Docker, GitHub Actions, Railway, CI/CD
Testing & Tools	JUnit, Jest, Playwright, Git, Stripe, Firebase, OpenAI API, n8n, Zapier

WORK EXPERIENCE

Java Developer | Redwood Software | **Jun 2026 – Present**

Toronto, ON

- Develop and maintain enterprise Java applications, delivering backend enhancements and production fixes in a large-scale environment.
- Investigate defects, trace application behaviour, and implement maintainable solutions with appropriate unit and integration testing.
- Collaborate through code reviews, Agile ceremonies, CI/CD pipelines, and cross-functional delivery with engineering and product teams.

Co-Founder & Developer | siift.ai | **May 2025 – Present**

Vancouver, BC · Part-time

- Built the NestJS backend from scratch, including REST APIs, service architecture, and business logic for an AI-powered planning platform.
- Implemented AWS Cognito authentication with custom UI and Google OAuth, S3 storage, and EC2-based deployment.
- Developed BullMQ workflows for email automation and webhook consumers for aggregating third-party content.
- Built the Next.js frontend in TypeScript, added Playwright end-to-end tests, and integrated OpenAI APIs to automate business-planning tasks.

Full-Stack Developer | Pitech | **Jun 2025 – Sep 2025**

Vancouver, BC · Contract

- Built a NestJS API gateway with rate limiting and request routing across approximately 10 domain-driven microservices.
- Designed authentication/RBAC, Stripe subscriptions, S3 storage, notifications, reviews, and tenant-management services.
- Implemented Kafka-based event communication and service-specific persistence using PostgreSQL and MongoDB through Prisma.
- Built web crawlers, OpenAI integrations, n8n/Zapier workflows, and a Flutter mobile application using BLoC.

Full-Stack Developer | KnotTheory | **Oct 2023 – Jan 2025**

Vancouver, BC

- Replaced spreadsheet-, Drive-, and Electron-based workflows with a centralized NestJS and React platform for orders and inventory.
- Built scheduled synchronization with cron jobs, BullMQ, platform adapters, and Prisma-based persistence.
- Improved responsiveness with Redis caching, WebSockets for team chat, and Server-Sent Events for live order updates.
- Containerized services with Docker and implemented GitHub Actions CI with Jest and Playwright test coverage.

SELECTED PROJECTS

CanSell — Cross-Platform Marketplace / *cansell-beta.up.railway.app*

NestJS, PostgreSQL, Redis, Elasticsearch, Supabase, WebSockets, SSE, Flutter, BLoC

- Independently built and scaled a used-book marketplace to 200K+ users and 2K daily active users over five years.
- Implemented full-text search with Elasticsearch, Redis caching for high-traffic endpoints, and Supabase Storage for media delivery.
- Built real-time chat, push notifications through Firebase Cloud Messaging, and an administrative moderation dashboard.

Dongip — Shared Expense Platform / *dongip.app*

Go, PostgreSQL, Flutter, BLoC, Clean Architecture, Drift, Docker, GitHub Actions

- Architected an offline-first Flutter application using Clean Architecture, BLoC, and Drift for local persistence.
- Built multi-user expense synchronization to maintain consistent balances across concurrent sessions.
- Developed Go REST APIs backed by PostgreSQL and automated deployment through Docker and GitHub Actions.

PingPong — Automated Grid Trading Platform / *pingpong.up.railway.app*

NestJS, PostgreSQL, Kraken API, Solana, Microservices, Docker, Next.js

- Built a live grid-trading engine that executes Kraken trades using configurable per-pair strategies and safety controls.
- Designed a non-custodial execution model without withdrawal permissions and implemented Solana payment validation.
- Architected NestJS microservices with PostgreSQL audit logging for orders, strategy decisions, and execution events.

EDUCATION

B.Sc. Computer Software Engineering | Shahid Bahonar Technical College | **2016 – 2018**

Shiraz, Iran

A.S. Computer Software Engineering | University of Birjand | **2014 – 2016**

Birjand, Iran