Usman Tahir
Amsterdam, NL
Node.js, TypeScript, AWS

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Summary

Product-minded senior engineer with 10+ years building and owning products end to end, from the problem to what ships, in insurance, fintech and healthcare. I start from what users and the business need, then choose the simplest architecture that serves it. As the first engineer at Fidamy, an NN-backed insurtech, I took the product from the first Figma flows to a live platform embedded in retailer checkouts, and made its regulated purchase flow reliable and resumable for customers. As co-founder and CTO of Mustaa, I designed the product and built its event-driven serverless backend on AWS (Lambda, Step Functions, Aurora PostgreSQL, SQS). I use AI-assisted development daily, with review of every change.

Core Technical Expertise

- **Product engineering:** discovery and flow design, regulated purchase flows, funnel and partner analytics, partner and payment integrations
- **Backend:** Node.js, TypeScript, NestJS, REST and backend-for-frontend APIs, event-driven and saga-based workflows, webhook processing
- **Cloud & infrastructure:** AWS (Lambda, API Gateway, SQS, EventBridge, DynamoDB, S3, Cognito), AWS CDK, Docker, CI/CD
- **Data:** PostgreSQL (Aurora, TypeORM, Drizzle), DynamoDB, MongoDB, Redis
- **Frontend:** React, Next.js, Zustand, React Query, performance optimization
- **Payments, identity & compliance:** SEPA/iDEAL (Twikey), 2FA (Infobip), Cognito, AFM-regulated insurance, health-data residency
- **Quality & AI:** Jest unit and integration tests, Sentry, New Relic, Amplitude; Claude Code and Copilot in small, reviewed tasks

Experience

Fidamy — Amsterdam, Netherlands

Senior Software Engineer (Founding Engineer) - March 2024 – May 2026

Venture-backed device insurance sold through retail partners; Nationale-Nederlanden is the key investor.

- First engineer (employee #3) and sole developer: designed and built the insurance product 0 → 1, from the first Figma flows to a live product embedded in retailer checkouts, owning architecture, product decisions, QA and releases
- Spent ~6 months on discovery and design with customers, our investor and insurance-licensing constraints before writing production code
- Restructured the regulated purchase flow once its steps settled, giving each step its own URL and server-loaded data, which removed a race condition and made checkout reliable and resumable
- Made quotes load almost instantly and removed per-call vendor overhead by caching pricing-engine quotes behind a bulk endpoint
- Moved payments to Twikey (iDEAL/SEPA direct debit), a hard requirement for an insurer, with zero downtime
- Built the backend APIs on AWS serverless to keep cost in line with early traffic, plus the policyholder portal with 2FA, claims and document uploads
- Grew it into a distribution platform: onboarded retail partners, added per-partner funnel analytics and ran trial builds for larger brands

Technologies: Next.js, React, TypeScript, Node.js, AWS serverless, Twikey, Infobip, Sentry, New Relic, Amplitude

Mustaa (Rotterdam, Netherlands)

Co-founder and CTO - March 2023 to June 2025

Fractional yacht ownership: buy a share of a yacht, then use or trade the days it gives you. Raised one VC funding round and a UK government grant for early-stage startups.

- Co-founded a 4-person startup around one idea: people want time on a yacht, not the asset. Designed the core mechanic of four shares per boat, each granting tradable day-tokens, so the platform could never promise more time than a boat physically has
- Designed the full system across Next.js, AWS and the LUKSO blockchain: the chain only records ownership, while everything members actually use (bookings, search, media, euro payments) runs on AWS; led the build with two freelance engineers
- Built the serverless backend in TypeScript on AWS (Lambda, API Gateway, Step Functions, Aurora PostgreSQL, SQS, EventBridge), with Step Functions sagas carrying each booking, share purchase and payout safely from payment to confirmation
- Made the key product promises impossible to break in code: a PostgreSQL range-exclusion constraint means a boat can never be double-booked, and an idempotent indexer keeps on-chain ownership and the app in sync
- Removed crypto friction for members with passwordless wallet login and sponsored transactions (a KMS-signed relayer serialized through SQS FIFO), so nobody needed to understand gas fees
- Grew a 500+ member community with first revenue from curated sailing trips and yacht-hosted events run through the platform

Technologies: TypeScript, Next.js, React, AWS (Lambda, API Gateway, Aurora PostgreSQL, DynamoDB, SQS, Step Functions, EventBridge, S3, CloudFront, KMS, SES), SST, Drizzle, Zod, Solidity, LUKSO

Nationale Nederlanden (NN Group) (Rotterdam, Netherlands)

Senior Full-Stack Engineer - January 2022 to February 2023

Greenfield digital mortgage intake platform for appointments with mortgage advisors.

- Built the frontend for a greenfield mortgage-intake platform inside a regulated bank as the sole developer, integrating legacy and government systems
- Implemented features against the serverless AWS backend (Lambda, API Gateway) with the platform team, under strict enterprise security and compliance governance

Technologies: TypeScript, React, Gatsby, AWS Lambda, API Gateway

Droobi Health (Doha, Qatar)

Technical Lead (Founding Engineer) - April 2019 to October 2021

Digital health startup focused on diabetes management through remote monitoring, coaching, and clinical collaboration.

- Founding engineer and technical lead; led a 10-person cross-platform team (mobile, backend, web) — setting technical direction, development standards, sprint planning, and delivery coordination — while working hands-on on the web platform (React / Next.js)
- Delivered a multi-platform healthcare system: iOS/Android patient apps, backend services, and clinician/admin web portals for reviewing patient data and supporting care decisions
- Oversaw integrations with connected health devices (glucose monitors, scales, wearables) feeding patient metrics into clinician dashboards
- Led engineering in a regulated, HIPAA-aligned environment, managing release cycles, QA, and production deployments across multiple applications
- Contributed to hiring and acted as the technical bridge between product leadership, medical stakeholders, and engineering teams

Technologies: React, Next.js, Web Platforms, Healthcare Integrations, Cross-Platform System Architecture

MobileLive (Toronto, Canada)

Software Engineer III - August 2017 to February 2019

Led a team of 5 on the Freedom Mobile → Rogers post-acquisition integration for two of Canada's largest telecoms, migrating customer-portal features and aligning Node.js integrations with Rogers' platform standards

Built secure payment and account features on a TypeScript/Node.js monorepo for CIBC's student fee-payment portal

Technologies: React, TypeScript, Node.js, NestJS, Monorepos, Enterprise System Integrations

BlueEast - Orient Group of Companies (Lahore, Pakistan)

Software Engineer - July 2016 to July 2017

Built an IoT home-automation platform in Node.js with MQTT device-to-cloud messaging, letting people monitor and control connected hardware in real time; shipped the first market release

Technologies: JavaScript, Node.js, MQTT, Web Applications, IoT Integrations

Ebryx/FireEye - (Fremont, USA)

Software Engineer - April 2015 to July 2016

Built the UI for a security-analytics platform that visualized real-time threat data for enterprise security teams alongside FireEye appliances (AngularJS)

Technologies: AngularJS, JavaScript, Data Visualization, REST APIs, Cybersecurity Platforms

Freelance & Selected Projects

Banzai (Nasdaq: BNZI) (Remote)

Freelance Software Engineer (part-time) - May 2025 to July 2026

Marketing-technology SaaS company. Worked part-time across three of its products alongside my main role.

- **Atlas, authentication platform:** Built Banzai's internal identity service in NestJS and TypeScript, configuring AWS Cognito for user management and sign-in with JWT sessions, PostgreSQL via TypeORM migrations, Redis and Docker, covered by Jest unit and integration tests
- **CreateStudio, AI video-creation app (90,000+ customers):** Introduced generative-AI features that let creators add AI voiceovers, turn speech into text and generate 3D characters for their videos (ElevenLabs, Meshy AI), working across the Electron/Vue app, the AWS serverless API (Lambda, S3, Serverless Framework) and the NestJS API
- **Reach, event-marketing and lead-generation platform:** Contributed to Banzai's platform for filling B2B events with qualified attendees, working across its multi-project monorepo with Nextjs and Express

Technologies: NestJS, TypeScript, Node.js, AWS (Cognito, Lambda, S3), Serverless Framework, PostgreSQL, TypeORM, Redis, Docker, Jest, Electron, Vue

Education

The University of Central Punjab, Lahore (2010 - 2014)

Bachelor of Computer Science