

RAFAEL ALMEIDA

Staff Software Engineer | TypeScript · Node.js · React · AWS · Event-Driven · DDD
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SUMMARY

Staff-level software engineer with 10+ years building and scaling production systems across large European and US enterprises (Volkswagen, KLM, Jumbo, Essent). Deep hands-on expertise in TypeScript, Node.js, React, and serverless AWS (Lambda, AppSync, CDK, DynamoDB, Cognito), with strong command of event-driven architectures (Kafka), Domain-Driven Design, and Spec-Driven Development. Known for raising the technical bar across squads — defining testing strategy, owning architectural decisions, and introducing agentic AI workflows to automate documentation and quality gates. Shipped a Vertex AI RAG chat feature in production and built full-stack EdTech platforms end-to-end as an independent consultant. Fluent in English (C1), native Portuguese.

CORE SKILLS

Languages TypeScript, JavaScript (Node.js), HTML/CSS, SQL, GraphQL (SDL)

Backend Node.js, AWS Lambda, AWS AppSync, REST/GraphQL APIs, Kafka, Event-Driven Architecture

Frontend React, Next.js, Angular, Vue/Nuxt, Design Systems, SSR

Cloud & IaC AWS (Lambda, AppSync, S3, Cognito, CloudFront, DynamoDB, CDK), Terraform, CI/CD, GCP

Data DynamoDB, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, BigQuery, DDD modelling

Quality Jest, Puppeteer, Cucumber/Gherkin, Istanbul, TDD, Spec-Driven Development

AI / GenAI Vertex AI, RAG, LangChain, OpenAI, agentic workflows for docs & QA automation

Architecture Domain-Driven Design, Event Storming, Example Mapping, Value Stream Mapping, SAFe, Scrum

Observability Datadog, Grafana

EXPERIENCE

Senior Cloud Engineer — Essent · Den Bosch, NL

Jan 2025 – Present

- Drive the cross-squad Testing Community of Interest, defining testing strategy, tooling standards, and Definition of Done in partnership with Engineering Managers across multiple domain teams.
- Introduced Spec-Driven Development and agentic AI workflows to automate technical documentation and quality gates, reducing manual overhead for specs, ADRs, and test scaffolding.
- Design and own event-driven integrations on Kafka, applying Domain-Driven Design and bounded contexts to decouple domain teams and clarify interoperability between APIs.
- Facilitate Event Storming, Example Mapping, and Value Stream Mapping sessions to translate business goals into concrete architectural and delivery decisions inside SAFe and Scrum ceremonies.
- Own AWS infrastructure-as-code using AWS CDK (TypeScript) and CI/CD pipelines, ensuring reliable, repeatable, multi-environment releases.

Independent Software Engineer (Consulting) — WebCraft Innovations · Netherlands

2022 – Present

Key client: Teaching It Right — NSF-supported EdTech company (USA)

- Architected and delivered "We Are Friends", a research-based interactive platform helping children ages 4–9 develop social-behavioural and cognitive skills, from zero to production.
- Built the full-stack application with React and TypeScript, deployed as a static site on AWS S3 + CloudFront for global low-latency delivery.

- Implemented AWS Cognito for authentication and AWS Lambda for serverless backend logic, keeping infrastructure cost-efficient and scalable without ops overhead.
- Shipped product features end-to-end: video modelling, customised photo experiences, music-based learning modules, reward systems, and tracking tools for educators and parents.
- Owned architecture, delivery, and client communication as sole technical contact — KvK-registered business in the Netherlands.

Senior Cloud Engineer — Volkswagen Pon Financial Services · Amersfoort, NL *Aug 2023 – Jan 2025*

- Designed and shipped GraphQL services on AWS AppSync with Lambda resolvers, DynamoDB single-table models, and S3 integration, serving multiple Volkswagen affiliates from a shared platform.
- Built automated test suites with Jest integrated into CI/CD, enforcing regression safety for critical financial flows.
- Owned IaC for multi-affiliate deployments using Terraform and AWS CDK in TypeScript, standardising environments across affiliates.

Senior Software Engineer / Team Lead — Formula.Monks · Remote (USA) *Jul 2022 – Jun 2024*

- Shipped an AI-powered customer chat feature using Vertex AI with Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), delivering context-aware responses grounded in the client's own knowledge base — one of the team's first production GenAI features.
- Built a direct integration that replaced a third-party vendor dependency, eliminating roughly \$10K/year in recurring costs.
- Designed data and ML workflows using Vertex AI, BigQuery, Cloud Storage, and AutoML for model training and evaluation.
- Raised the engineering bar across the team through pair programming, code reviews, and hands-on mentoring of mid-level engineers.

Solutions Engineer — Jumbo Supermarkten · Veghel, NL *Oct 2019 – Jul 2022*

- Migrated a legacy monolith to a modern SSR Nuxt (Vue.js) frontend backed by microservices and a GraphQL API gateway, improving maintainability and developer velocity.
- Tech lead for the Refund Project across Promotions, Orders, and Basket services, coordinating two engineers and aligning multi-product delivery.

Senior Frontend Engineer — KLM Royal Dutch Airlines · Amstelveen, NL *Oct 2018 – Oct 2019*

- Developed an Angular + GraphQL application inside the Sales team, collaborating with six engineers in a Scrum/Agile setup.
- Drove adoption of the internal Design System and monitored stability of the customer sales journey in production.

Earlier Career —

- **Medior Software Engineer** — Techifide, London (Remote) · Sep 2016 – Oct 2018
- **Junior Software Engineer** — GFT Technologies, Padova/São Paulo · Sep 2015 – Sep 2016
- **Junior Software Engineer** — Sascar (Michelin Group), São Paulo · May 2014 – Dec 2014

EDUCATION

M.Sc. in Management (iMSM) — University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign *Jul 2023 – Jul 2024*

B.S. in Applied Technology — Brigham Young University, Idaho *2016 – 2022*

LANGUAGES

Portuguese (Native) · English (Fluent, C1) · Dutch (Intermediate, B1) · Spanish (Basic)