

Catalin Mihai Leca

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About Me

Senior Full-Stack Software Engineer with 8+ years of experience building product systems across fintech, education, media and B2B platforms. I turn complex problems into simple, well-structured systems, with a focus on ownership, measurable improvements and consistent delivery.

Skills

Frontend: React.js, JavaScript, TypeScript, React Query, Redux, Next.js, Apollo, Storybook, Websockets, HTML5/CSS3

Backend: Node.js, Express, MongoDB, REST, GraphQL, NestJS, SQL, DynamoDB

Infrastructure & Testing: AWS (Lambda, S3, SQS), Docker, Jest, Cypress, Microservices, Stripe, System Design

Experience (8+ years)

Senior Software Engineer | Trading212

February 2026 - Present

- Owned the Portfolio Transfers frontend at Trading 212 from design through delivery, across single React Native codebase running across iOS, Android and web.
- Rebuilt the transfer details screen around a step-by-step status timeline to cut the transfer-status questions behind ~30% of support chats, defining the data contract with the backend engineers and reworking the data-caching layer.
- Built the Cash ISA retention flow that offers customers a better in-app option when they start a transfer out, helping retain significant balances at risk as promotional rates expire.
- Added a confirmation step to the transfer flow, helping customers catch data mismatches before submission and reducing cancellations.

Senior Software Engineer | Education First

June 2023 - February 2026

- Rearchitected a highly complex legacy CMS into a modular React system with defined patterns and internal guidelines, enhancing team onboarding, scalability and documentation.
- Initiated a shared UI library with the Design team, powered by Material UI and Storybook, integrated with Figma design tokens to ensure visual consistency and effortless scalability across platforms.
- Integrated AI Roleplay content from Storyblok into the course editor, building a clear data flow that lets authors attach AI conversation activities directly to lessons, improving authoring speed and reliability.
- Wrote Node.js scripts to detect and fix data inconsistencies caused by feature updates or legacy issues, ensuring accurate content.
- Built backend utilities for bulk operations and data validation, reducing manual maintenance and strengthening overall platform stability.

Senior Software Engineer | Financial Times

February 2022 - June 2023

- Reduced the number of systems' vulnerabilities by 90%, securing the team's ranking to the 1st place in the organization's leaderboard.
- Collaborated with the product team to design and deliver customer loyalty campaigns using AWS Lambda, DynamoDB and Node.js, significantly increasing the retention rates.
- Built and deployed scalable AWS SQS solution to manage consents and reroute all read/write operations, replacing DynamoDB and ensuring Redshift synchronization via webhook event listeners.
- Optimised platform's SEO by implementing best practices, increasing organic traffic by 10%.
- Built a new React/Next.js section featuring the most searched content of 2022, doubling user engagement.

Software Engineer | Vodafone Group

October 2020 - February 2022

- Built B2B user journeys in React with form flows connected to multiple systems, enabling new partners integrations.
- Migrated a legacy front-end architecture to modular services, improving scalability, maintainability and overall development efficiency.
- Enhanced the application security and UX by implementing a refresh token authentication flow integrated with CIAM.
- Automated release workflows by setting up Jenkins CI/CD pipelines, increasing delivery reliability and reducing manual effort.

Earlier Roles | BearingPoint & Arnica Software

April 2018 - October 2020

- Developed core backend services with Node.js for 2021 SAP® Pinnacle Award-winning SaaS solution in the construction industry.
- Designed and launched an internal job scheduler / cron that cut project costs by ~€20k/year.
- Built a contract handover module to manage tools, equipment, resources with expense tracking, enhancing operational visibility.
- Migrated large front-end codebases to TypeScript, reducing bug reports and boosting maintainability. Added Kibana and SAP Logging for real-time monitoring and faster debugging.

Projects

HedgeHunt | Solo Full-Stack SaaS Product

October 2025 – June 2026

hedgehunt.app - Location-based treasure hunt SaaS. React, TypeScript, Node/Express, MongoDB, Stripe, OpenAI/Claude

- Designed and launched the full product end-to-end, including the landing site, hunt builder, player app and Node/MongoDB API.
- Implemented Stripe subscriptions and one-off purchases with idempotent webhooks, refund handling and automatic access revocation.
- Built an AI-powered editing agent that turns plain-English instructions into validated structured hunt updates, with generation, validation, retries and streamed progress.
- Added immutable hunt versioning with optimistic locking, allowing creators to edit drafts without disrupting live players.

Enterprise Security Platform

- Delivered fully owned React features for an enterprise security platform, MTTR severity filters, collector flow, audit log and vulnerability management tools. Enhanced dashboard speed and clarity while guiding implementation and architectural decisions.

Certifications

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate | 2023

Education

Bachelor of Computer Science | University of Bucharest | Bucharest | 2019