

JOÃO FORJA

Software Engineer | Product Engineer

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SUMMARY

Software Engineer with 9+ 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 and delivery: Product engineering | 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

Delivery: 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 lean engineering team with direct CTO collaboration on engineering and CEO collaboration on product direction.
- Took primary ownership of Auditor Portfolio, unifying auditors' competition history from leading Web3 security platforms and working directly with users to understand adoption barriers, provide support, and resolve missing or incorrect data.
- 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, and helped steer the company's design system.

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

- Reviewed student code and coached engineers 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 full-stack implementation, API integrations, deployment, and client acceptance; took 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 ENGINEERING EVIDENCE

Excalidraw | Independent Open-Source Contributor

Contributed to the Excalidraw open-source project, shipping complex React and TypeScript interactions 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

ISEL - Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa