

Farzin Shifat

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SUMMARY

Founding-stage CTO and solo product engineer building production systems across backend, infrastructure, and AI-powered applications. Experienced leading engineering execution while independently architecting and shipping full-stack platforms at scale. M.S. in Computer Science (AI Optimization).

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages and Data: TypeScript, Node.js, Python, SQL, PostgreSQL, Supabase (RLS), Redis

Backend: REST API design, NestJS, auth (JWT, OAuth, MFA, RLS), Stripe Connect, webhook idempotency, CI/CD (GitHub Actions), Docker, Nginx, observability

Testing: Playwright, Vitest, integration and accessibility testing, Spec-Driven Development

Frontend: Next.js, React, TypeScript

AI: Retrieval-augmented generation, OpenAI embeddings, vector retrieval

Cloud: AWS (EC2, S3, Lambda), Vercel, Cloudflare

EXPERIENCE

Founding Engineer and Solo Architect (Contract)

Jan 2026 to Present

StrictlySurf LLC, New York, NY (Remote)

- Sole engineer for a production surf marketplace shipped in four months: **301 API routes**, **231 Postgres migrations**, 754 React components, and 339 automated tests.
- Built **enterprise-grade auth**: separate customer and admin sessions, MFA, step-up re-authentication, hierarchical authority policy, and full audit logging.
- Enforced per-vendor data isolation with **Supabase row-level security** across 231 migrations.
- Integrated **Stripe Connect** payouts and Shippo with **idempotent, HMAC-verified webhooks** and integer-cent money handling.
- Authored **339 automated tests** (integration, Playwright E2E, accessibility, security, static analysis) gated in a GitHub Actions CI/CD pipeline.
- Ran **22 production cron jobs**: marketplace lifecycle, dispute auto-resolution, shipping and tax reconciliation, surf-data refresh.
- Shipped a production **RAG surf-report chatbot** grounded in live swell data via OpenAI embeddings and request-time vector retrieval.

CTO / Lead Software Engineer

Jan 2025 to Present

Sports Excitement, New York, NY (Remote)

- Lead engineering for a founding-stage sports platform: system architecture, engineering standards, and delivery across web and mobile.
- Architected and own the production **NestJS backend** (auth, payments, core product) shared by web and mobile under one service contract.
- Designed and operate **hybrid VPS and AWS infrastructure**: containerized services, CI/CD, centralized logging and observability.
- Hardened the security posture: **Cloudflare-tunnel-only default-deny ingress**, Zero Trust SSO, JWT and OAuth with row-level security.
- Shipped the public marketing site solo, then folded it into the product backend.
- Own cross-repo engineering execution, the engineering hiring bar, and code-review standards.

Lead Software Engineering Fellow

Jul 2024 to Sep 2024

Headstarter Fellowship, Remote

- Led full-stack and **LLM-powered feature builds** using vector search and REST APIs.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- M.S. in Computer Science (AI Optimization), Western Governors University, expected May 2026
- B.S. in Computer Science, Western Governors University, 2025
- AWS Machine Learning Associate, 2026
- AI Optimization Developer Certificate, WGU (2025); IBM AI Developer Professional, IBM (2024); Backend Developer, Boot.dev (2024)