Balazs Otakomaiya

Senior Software Engineer

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01 PROFILE

Empathy-driven Software Engineer dedicated to crafting **beautiful, user-centric digital experiences**. I bridge technical expertise with a deep understanding of user needs, fostering **cross-functional collaboration** to drive product innovation. By effectively communicating complex ideas across departments—from design to marketing to leadership—I ensure our solutions resonate with end-users while aligning with business goals. My commitment to **clear communication** and stakeholder engagement empowers teams to deliver high-quality, impactful software that truly enhances user lives.

Specialized in fintech, e-commerce, and fashion industries.

Core Technologies: React, TypeScript, Flutter, Dart, Node.js, AWS, GraphQL, Firebase

02 EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

11/2024 — Present

Senior Frontend Engineer at OTP Bank (Contract)   *Budapest, HU*

As a Senior Frontend Engineer at OTP Bank, I played a pivotal role in developing OTP SingleMarket, the bank's new flagship investment app, building it from the ground up for iOS, Android, and Web platforms.

My responsibilities & achievements:

- Successfully **navigated the unique challenge of sharing a codebase across 3 platforms and 3 screen sizes**
- Overcame the challenges of **building a web app using Flutter** by creating low-level abstractions for crucial yet missing features, bridging the gap between Flutter's capabilities and web-specific requirements
- Contributed significantly to building an **in-house UI library**, enhancing consistency and efficiency across projects
- Implemented robust **automated testing practices**, ensuring high-quality software delivery and enabling the team to "go slow to go fast"
- Facilitated **effective cross-department communication** with design, business, product, and engineering teams
- Delivered **presentations to stakeholders** and conducted **technical presentations** to large audiences of up to 100+ engineers within the company
- Provided **mentorship and guidance** to other engineers on the team, promoting knowledge sharing and skill development
- Led **frequent initiatives** to improve team-wide ways of working, fostering a culture of continuous improvement

Technologies used: Flutter, Dart, GraphQL, Firebase, Storyblok, Jenkins

01/2023 — 09/2023

Senior Frontend Engineer at Verilabs (Contract)   *Remote*

My responsibilities & achievements:

- Build our drop-in, **open-source** widget
- Rapidly ship a series of demos and proof-of-concepts, **aiding the acquisition of new investors**, and successful showings to our stakeholders / partners
- Revamp public our documentation

Technologies used: React, Typescript, ethers / web3, styled-components

| 01/2022 — 01/2023 | **Frontend Engineer at Typeform** | *Manchester, UK* |

Unfortunately, my tenure at Typeform ended prematurely due to a series of layoffs directly affecting the whole of my team and about 30% of the company in general.

My responsibilities & achievements:

- Create our own **React component library** based on our design system
- Conduct and analyse **dozens** of **user interviews & research** competitors in collaboration with our design team
- Work in a **fast-paced, startup-like** environment in our R&D team
- Setup our CI/CD pipelines and test environment
- Nurture a culture of automated testing in our day-to-day workflow, enabling us to deliver software with **greater confidence. Go slow, to go fast.**
- **Mentorship and guidance** to other Engineers in the team

Technologies used: React, Typescript, Node.js, Firebase, Storybook, GraphQL, styled-components

| 05/2021 — 01/2022 | **Frontend Engineer at PokerStars** | *Manchester, UK* |

Joining PokerStars, my team was tasked with rebuilding the UI of our Sports-betting platform from the ground up, on a modern tech stack.

Technologies used: React, TypeScript, Node.js, Cypress, Testing Library

| 04/2020 — 05/2021 | **Software Engineer at Booking.com** | *Manchester, UK* |

My responsibilities:

- Work in an agile, highly quality-driven team, delivering world-class booking experiences **for millions of users worldwide**
- The architecture of our bespoke Microfrontends – including a set of in-house libraries responsible for data-sharing, standardising communication with our APIs, and serving/consuming these Microfrontends, **helping frontend teams ship** approximately **7x-10x more frequently** (per week)
- AWS CloudFormation (IaC) to deploy/manage a wide range of AWS services including Pipelines, EC2, WAF, Lambda, DynamoDB, Fargate, and more

Technologies used: React, Typescript, Node.js, Cypress, Eggplant, Jest, Testing Library

| 12/2018 — 04/2020 | **Frontend Developer at DEPT Agency** | *Manchester, UK* |

My responsibilities & achievements:

- **Ship over 10+ independent projects** back-to-back
- **Lead front-end** efforts **on 3** of our highest-ticket projects
- **Client-facing role:** project management, timelines, expectations, technical support
- Deliver well-tested code in an extremely fast-paced environment, without compromising on quality
- Contribute to ways of working related engineering-wide initiatives

Technologies used: React, Vue, Redux, Vuex, Laravel, Cypress, Jest, PHPUnit, styled-compoments

| 06/2016 — 03/2019 | **Full-Stack Developer at VerveDev Inc.** | *Remote (Budapest)* |

VerveDev is a small design and development agency specialising in kick-starting businesses. At VerveDev, I've directly worked with clients as small as your local restaurant, to as big as Canadian School Boards.

My responsibilities included:

- **Working closely with clients**, defining requirements, managing expectations, setting deadlines & delivering work
- Manage our **DevOps** pipelines for both internal systems and systems of our clients
- Worked with Institutional clients including the Durham School Board and OECTA

Technologies used: Symfony (PHP), Vue.js (JavaScript)

03 EDUCATION

Oct 2019 — Sep 2023

The Open University   *Manchester, UK*

BSc (Honours) Computing & IT and Business

Balancing a full-time job and a full-time university course is a demanding task. However, this challenge has enabled me to cultivate **exceptional time-management skills** while maintaining outstanding performance in both my academic and professional pursuits.

Pursuing a business degree has broadened my perspective beyond the technical aspects of creating solutions, **allowing me to consider a comprehensive array of entrepreneurial factors.**

04 SKILLS

React.js   Node.js

Typescript   GraphQL

Flutter   AWS

Dart   PHP (Laravel, Symfony)

05 LANGUAGES

English   ●●●●●   Hungarian   ●●●●●

06 EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Mar 2022 — Present

Founder, Ezzra   *Budapest, HU*

Driven by my passion for fashion and entrepreneurship, I founded Ezzra, a men's jewelry company catering to the modern, style-conscious man. As we expand our presence in the Hungarian and Romanian markets, my role encompasses:

- Curating contemporary collections and directing stylish photoshoots
- Developing a distinctive brand identity for fashion-forward customers
- Optimizing supply chain and sourcing premium materials for quality products
- Crafting seamless online shopping experiences and executing targeted marketing campaigns
- Fostering a growing social media community across Hungary and Romania

Through Ezzra, I'm not just creating jewelry, but cultivating a brand that resonates with the lifestyle and values of stylish, contemporary men in these dynamic markets.

07 HOBBIES

Muay Thai, Boxing, and functional training at the gym form the cornerstone of my "healthy body, healthy mind" philosophy. These activities, especially martial arts, provide a perfect counterbalance to office life, engaging my whole body while honing discipline and focus.

I'm also an avid follower of commercial banking and fintech, with a particular focus on the EU banking landscape. My interests span core banking systems, payment networks, and banking compliance.

As a fashion enthusiast, I channel my passion into building Ezzra, my men's jewelry brand. This venture engages my mind in a highly visual and creative sense, allowing me to explore design, aesthetics, and style trends. Through Ezzra, I'm not just observing fashion but actively contributing to it, which provides a stimulating creative outlet that complements my technical work in tech.