

LORNA WANJIRU



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Software Engineer

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

An innovative and dedicated Software Engineer and Entrepreneur with hands-on experience building and running digital brands, including Vantelee Jewelry and Zanira Clothing. Skilled in TypeScript, JavaScript, Python, and modern frameworks such as Next.js and Django REST Framework. Combines technical expertise with a strong entrepreneurial mindset—developing and scaling e-commerce platforms from concept to launch. Recognized for excellent problem-solving skills, creativity, and a commitment to continuous professional growth in emerging technologies. Passionate about innovation, mentorship, and promoting diversity and inclusion within the tech and business communities.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer

Microsoft | Aug 2022 - Present

- Led the frontend development and successful rollout of a major feature to 100% of users in production, ensuring optimal performance and responsiveness. Meticulously tracked user interactions and performance metrics, utilizing feedback for iterative improvements to enhance user experience.
- Played a pivotal role in the frontend integration of cross-functional projects, collaborating closely with teams like Outlook, Teams, and the Mac team. Ensured seamless compatibility and a cohesive user experience across various platforms, aligning frontend design with backend functionalities.
- Conducted comprehensive A/B testing to evaluate user interaction with new frontend features, achieving high levels of user satisfaction and engagement. Analyzed feedback and metrics to refine user interfaces and functionalities.
- Proactively addressed and resolved a significant number of frontend-related bugs, contributing to a 70% reduction in the product backlog. Prioritized and efficiently tackled issues in collaboration with my team, enhancing overall product performance and stability.
- Volunteered as a mentor for young professionals in the tech industry, focusing on software development skills and career progression. Engaged in programs like Digigirls, Microsoft Leap, and Game of Learners to provide guidance and support. Advocated for diversity and inclusivity in technology through active participation in the "PODFAST" podcast and hosting knowledge sharing sessions. Promoted a culture of inclusivity and diversity in the workplace, sharing insights and strategies for creating welcoming tech environments.
- Contributed to the development of Tprompt LLM AI during an internal hackathon, focusing on frontend aspects of the project. Assisted in onboarding new hires by providing them with insights and guidance on frontend development best practices.

Web3 Software Engineer

NGeni.io | Feb 2022 - July 2022

- Spearheaded frontend development for two key client projects in the Web3 space, successfully integrating user interfaces with blockchain functionalities. This work not only contributed significantly to NGeni.io's early-stage growth but also showcased the practical application of blockchain in frontend development.
- Led the design and implementation of frontend systems, ensuring seamless interaction between web interfaces and underlying blockchain technologies. My efforts resulted in the delivery of robust and user-friendly solutions that aligned with client requirements and expectations.
- Adapted quickly to the challenges of integrating emerging blockchain technologies, demonstrating my ability to learn and apply new concepts effectively in a dynamic startup environment.
- Fostered a culture of knowledge sharing and collaborative learning within the team, contributing to the overall skill development in blockchain-integrated frontend solutions. Actively supported my colleagues in understanding and implementing Web3 technologies, enhancing our collective capability to handle complex projects.
- My contributions at NGeni.io reflect a proactive approach to tackling new technological challenges and a commitment to driving innovation in Web3 frontend development, setting a foundation for future project successes and client satisfaction.

EDUCATION

Catholic University of Eastern Africa

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science

2017 - 2022

Engaged in numerous tech-related projects and activities, honing skills in software development and system design.

PROJECTS

Vantelee Jewelry

Tech: Django REST Framework, Next.js (App Router), TypeScript, PostgreSQL, Tailwind CSS

- Developed a RESTful Django backend for products, carts, orders, and customer accounts, secured with token-based authentication.
- Built a responsive Next.js frontend in TypeScript using Tailwind CSS, integrating with the API for real-time product browsing and checkout on vantelee.com.
- Optimized database queries and PostgreSQL schema for fast page loads and scalable traffic, while using AI-assisted tools to speed up development workflows

Zanira Clothing

Tech: Django REST Framework, Next.js (App Router), TypeScript, PostgreSQL, Tailwind CSS

- Implemented a Django REST API powering product listings, filtering, and order processing for the clothing storefront at z-anira.com.
- Created a modern, mobile-first UI in Next.js with server components, TypeScript, and Tailwind, consuming the backend APIs for a smooth shopping experience.
- Deployed backend and frontend to production, configuring environment variables, Postgres, and domains, and leveraging AI tools to accelerate UI and content creation.

SKILLS

- Proficient in frontend development, with intermediate expertise in TypeScript and JavaScript, ideal for crafting dynamic and responsive user interfaces.
- Beginner-level knowledge in backend development, complementing my frontend skills and allowing for versatile involvement in full-stack projects.
- Experienced in using frameworks like React, skilled at building interactive and user-friendly web applications. Skilled in version control using Git, ensuring efficient collaboration and code management in diverse development environments.
- Strong problem-solving abilities, adept at identifying and resolving challenges in frontend and backend integration. Committed to continuous learning, with a particular focus on emerging technologies such as Web3 and Large Language Models (LLMs) in AI.
- Versatile work experience, capable of thriving in both startup settings and large corporate environments like Microsoft, adapting to varied technical requirements and work cultures.
- Basic proficiency in Python, enabling engagement with AI-driven projects and understanding of LLM model integrations in software applications.
- Demonstrated ability to navigate and contribute effectively in diverse work settings, from fast-paced startups to structured and large-scale operations in multinational corporations.

LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Team Lead,

SheHacks KE

Jan 2020 - Nov 2021

- Led a team focused on the professional advancement of women in cybersecurity and community engagement. • Initiated and led key events to raise awareness and increase female participation in cybersecurity.
- Oversaw strategic growth as Campus Lead, steering mission-critical projects to fruition and bolstering organizational success.
- SQL Injection Workshop, SheHacks KE Campus Edition (October 15, 2020): Delivered an in-depth tutorial on combating SQL Injection, a common web application security threat.

Core Lead Team Member,

Google Developer Student Clubs

Catholic University of Eastern Africa | 2019-2020

- Led a series of workshops and seminars encompassing a wide array of technical topics, including cybersecurity, modern web development techniques, and AI/ML, thereby supporting the technical advancement of over 300 club members.
- Served as Technical Support Lead, nurturing a supportive learning environment that enabled community members to enhance their skills across various tech domains, particularly in software development and cybersecurity.
- OWASP Top 10 Security Vulnerabilities Seminar, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (Mar 12, 2021): Directed a workshop on significant security risks in web applications, emphasizing threat mitigation.