

Francis Onah

Senior Backend Engineer (Node.js)

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Based in Ibadan, Nigeria · Available now for remote roles

SUMMARY

Backend engineer with six years of building secure, high-performance APIs and services in Node.js, Express, TypeScript, MongoDB and Redis. I've integrated payment gateways (Paystack, Remita and others) for Nigerian businesses, led a backend team, and most recently led backend engineering at Stroll, a Singapore app, building Node.js microservices and running them on AWS with Docker and CI/CD.

SKILLS

Backend: Node.js, Express.js, NestJS, TypeScript, JavaScript, Go, REST APIs, GraphQL, WebSockets

Data & caching: MongoDB, Redis, PostgreSQL, DynamoDB

Payments & integrations: Paystack, Remita, payment gateway APIs, third-party REST APIs, OpenAI API

Security & quality: Authentication and authorization, access control, unit, integration and end-to-end testing

Cloud & DevOps: AWS (ECS, EKS, EC2, Lambda, S3, RDS), Docker, Kubernetes (CKAD), Terraform, GitHub Actions, Git/GitHub

WORK HISTORY

Lead Software Engineer at Stroll, Singapore – Remote

Feb 2025 to Aug 2026

Senior Software Engineer (Contract)

Nov 2024 to Jan 2025

- Led backend engineering for Stroll, a Singapore dating app, designing and building NestJS and TypeScript (Node.js) microservices and REST APIs for voice messaging and matching, so replies stayed fast during busy evening hours.
- Built real-time chat with WebSockets (Socket.IO) that kept members' conversations online without dropping.
- Moved the backend from a monolith to microservices running as Docker containers on AWS (ECS, Lambda, DynamoDB), managed with Terraform, cutting the monthly cloud bill 25% while the user base grew.
- Built GitHub Actions CI/CD pipelines so releases went out more often without manual steps, and handled production deployments and troubleshooting.
- Built an admin analytics dashboard that helped the product team track activity during beta, contributing to a 15% rise in retention; mentored junior engineers through code reviews.

Software Engineer at GLAS LLC, Texas, USA – Remote

Jan 2024 to Aug 2024

- Built and ran GLAS Homes (glashomes.com), a US home-buying platform, handling both the product and its AWS infrastructure.
- Built a GraphQL API in Go behind a redesigned sign-up flow, so more visitors finished creating accounts and onboarding conversion rose 30%.
- Integrated REST APIs and third-party services, and set up CI/CD with automated tests in GitHub Actions, so 15% fewer bugs reached users.

Software Engineer (Team Lead) at Magicaldb Limited, Nigeria – Remote

Apr 2023 to Dec 2023

- Led a small team building the REST API behind a web and mobile app with Node.js, Express, TypeScript, MongoDB and the OpenAI API.
- Designed MongoDB schemas and added Redis caching, making API responses 25% faster for app users.
- Integrated payment gateway APIs and secured sign-in with authentication best practices.
- Wrote unit, integration and end-to-end tests covering most of the codebase, so 30% fewer serious bugs reached customers.

Full Stack Developer at HealthStack Limited, Nigeria – Remote

Aug 2022 to Jul 2023

- Built Node.js and React features for a healthcare platform, integrating REST APIs with third-party services and cutting their response times 10%.
- Added automated tests and GitHub Actions CI, so 25% fewer bugs reached patients and clinic staff.

Frontend Developer (Contract) at NIPE, Nigeria – Remote*Jun 2022 to Aug 2022*

- Integrated the Remita payment gateway so members could pay dues and membership fees securely online.

Backend Developer (Contract) at Parakletus Hub, Nigeria*Apr 2021 to Jun 2022*

- Built the backend of an online learning platform as Node.js, Express and NestJS microservices with MongoDB and PostgreSQL on AWS.
- Implemented authentication, authorization and encryption so students and staff only saw the courses and records meant for them.
- Deployed the services as Docker containers on Amazon EKS (Kubernetes) so the platform stayed available to students.

Software Engineer at PaxAlpha Limited, Nigeria*Nov 2020 to Mar 2021*

- Integrated Payscale payments, cutting failed transactions 15% so more customers completed purchases.
- Set up automated testing with GitHub Actions and optimized the codebase, making the site 20% faster.

PROJECTS

- **atlasDB** – embedded local-first key-value store in Go with a write-ahead log, vector clocks and P2P sync. github.com/onahFran6/atlasDB
- **ClusterDrill** – open-source Kubernetes practice platform with 600+ hands-on questions graded against a live cluster, released as a Helm chart through GitHub Actions. github.com/onahFran6/clusterdrill

CERTIFICATIONS & EDUCATION

- B.Tech. in Civil Engineering, University of Ibadan, Nigeria (First Class)
- Certified Kubernetes Application Developer (CKAD) – The Linux Foundation, Oct 2026
- Full Stack Web Development with React – Coursera

VOLUNTEERING

- Software Engineering Mentor at Tech4Dev, Nigeria (2026 – present): mentor early-career engineers on APIs, Git and cloud deployment.