SYED SALMAN ALI ZAIDI

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Backend Software Engineer with 2 years of hands-on experience building production REST APIs and SDKs in **.NET 8/C#**, working across **SQL Server** and **PostgreSQL** data stores. Solid command of **OOP**, **design patterns** (Repository, Strategy, Factory), and **SOLID**/clean-code practices — applied daily across production systems serving thousands of active users. Experienced with enterprise **IAM** (Keycloak/OAuth 2.0), event-driven messaging (**NATS JetStream**, gRPC), caching strategies (**Redis**), and payment gateways (**Stripe, PayPal/Braintree**).

PUBLICATIONS

- LLM-Powered Protein Classification: A Deep Learning Framework for Kinases, Phosphatases, and Transmembrane Proteins — Published in IEEE.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Google Cloud Generative AI Leader Certification (Google Cloud)
- Oracle Cloud Infrastructure 2025 AI Foundations Associate (Oracle)
- Supervised Machine Learning: Regression and Classification — DeepLearning.AI (Coursera)
- Build a Backend REST API with Python & Django – Advanced (Udemy)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Talverse Karachi, Pakistan
Associate Software Engineer *October 2024 – Present*

- Built and shipped scalable REST APIs supporting thousands of concurrent users on live donation platform, developing services in **.NET 8**/ABP Framework and integrating **Stripe** and **PayPal/Braintree** payment gateways end-to-end.
- Integrated **Keycloak IAM** into a live production application — implementing OAuth 2.0/OIDC flows, RBAC, and custom OTP authenticators — which cut authentication-related support tickets and eliminated a class of login failures.
- Resolved checkout-blocking **SQL Server** performance bottlenecks affecting thousands of active users, applying query optimization, execution plan analysis, and index tuning across SQL Server and PostgreSQL, restoring revenue-impacting donation flows.
- Built a custom **Notification SDK** (NuGet package) using NATS JetStream with failover mechanisms, and used gRPC for service-to-service communication across microservices, reducing notification delivery failures in production.
- Implemented a custom **rate limiter** to protect against DDoS attacks, and instrumented services with the **ELK Stack** and **OpenTelemetry** for production logging, monitoring API latency and error rates across the platform.
- Applied and documented design patterns (Repository, Strategy, Factory) and enforced **SOLID** and clean-code practices across .NET services; led code reviews and mentored junior engineers on API design, authentication concepts, and code quality via **SonarQube**.
- Contributed to frontend development using **React/Next.js** and AngularJS, including cross-site analytics tracking with GA4/GTM integration and a geo-detection popup system.
- Resolved production OTP incidents by integrating **Messente** and Respond.io, ensuring minimal downtime during live outages; recognized with five “Shout” awards for impactful engineering contributions.

Talverse Karachi, Pakistan
Software Engineer Intern (iOS) *October 2024 – February 2025*

- Built and consumed backend REST APIs to support iOS application features, working with **SQL Server** for data storage and retrieval across the application stack.
- Applied **Swift/UIKit** fundamentals to develop, debug, and maintain application features end-to-end, using Xcode for coding, testing, and deployment workflows.
- Worked closely with cross-functional product and design teams to translate requirements into functional, seamless interfaces that met business and UX standards.

Sastaticket Karachi, Pakistan
Backend Developer Intern *July 2022 – September 2022*

- Accelerated feature delivery on a high-traffic travel booking platform by building RESTful APIs in **Python**, collaborating across sales and development teams to ship end-to-end functionality within sprint cycles.

PROJECTS

Expense Tracker — *Full-Stack Personal Portfolio Project*

- Designed and built a full-stack expense tracking application following **Clean Architecture** principles using .NET 10 (ASP.NET Core), Entity Framework Core, and PostgreSQL 17.
- Implemented **JWT**-based authentication with BCrypt password hashing, FluentValidation for request validation, Mapster for object mapping, and Scalar for interactive API documentation.
- Developed a React/Next.js frontend consuming the REST API; deployed the backend on **Railway** and the frontend on Vercel for production access.
- Applied domain-driven boundaries across API, Application, Domain, and Infrastructure layers to ensure separation of concerns and testability.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Backend: .NET 8/10, C#, ABP Framework, Entity Framework Core, REST APIs, gRPC, SQL Server, PostgreSQL

Infra & Messaging: Keycloak (OAuth 2.0/OIDC), Redis, NATS JetStream, ELK Stack, OpenTelemetry, Docker

Frontend: React/Next.js, AngularJS

AI/ML: Python, scikit-learn, Deep Learning, LLMs

Mobile: Swift/UIKit

Interests: Backend Architecture, System Design, AI/ML Engineering, Cloud Technologies

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

NASA Space Apps Challenge Karachi, Pakistan

- Built a React.js web application to fetch and display real-time satellite imagery via external APIs.
- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team to ideate, design, and deploy a functional prototype within the hackathon timeframe.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **SQL Competition Winner** — 1st position in the SQL query competition at DataQuest, hosted by FDSS (November 2023).
- **Speaker** — Delivered an online workshop on using Excel for data quality checks (April 2023).

EDUCATION

FAST University Karachi, Pakistan
Bachelor's in Computer Science *2021 – 2025*

DJ Science College Karachi, Pakistan
Pre-Engineering *2019 – 2021*