Nausher Rao

Software Engineer, Project Manager, BD, Live Event Production, Entrepreneur

+1 437 996 8786 | nausher@sherrao.tech | linkedin.com/in/nausherrao | github.com/SherRao

Education

Wilfrid Laurier University   Waterloo, ON
Honours BSc Computer Science   *Sept. 2019 – Apr. 2024*

Experience

Konfer   Waterloo, ON
Chief Executive Officer   *July 2024 – Present*
- Directed a **14‑person core team** and **43 volunteers** to launch SpurHacks in three months using **Waterfall critical path planning**, reaching **1,400+ attendees**, **291 project submissions**, and **$100K+ in prizes** – Canada's largest in‑person hackathon by project submissions.
- Managed **$350K+ budget** and full lifecycle operations (staffing, scheduling, partners, risk management, retrospectives) while serving as lead stage/production manager for all ceremonies.
- Partnered with an external creative studio to produce a full digital media campaign **generating 5M+ impressions within two months.**
- Led development of proprietary hackathon platform (**React, TypeScript, Go**) through **Agile sprints, backlog prioritization, and code reviews** with the engineering team to ensure quality at scale for applications, ticketing, scheduling, and networking.
- Coordinated venue preparation for a 120,000 sq. ft. four‑floor building with Colliers and external contractors using structured Waterfall timelines for renovations, Wi‑Fi, and broadcast AV infrastructure.

SPUR Innovation Center   Waterloo, ON
Project Manager – Incubation, Events & Operations, and Technical Development   *Sept. 2024 – Oct. 2025*
- Managed **$1M+ startup investment funding** by evaluating **50+ companies**, selecting **15 high‑potential ventures**, and running financial reviews/OKR alignment to drive capital efficiency and scalability.
- Kept 15 startups aligned on growth through weekly/bi‑weekly check‑ins blending **Agile** iterations with **Waterfall** funding milestones, achieving 12/15 startups hitting Q1 **OKRs**.
- Delivered an investor‑ready platform (**React, TypeScript, Go**) by project managing the engineering and UI team through **sprint planning**, **backlog grooming**, and code reviews, substantially **reducing initial onboarding time from 3+ months to a couple weeks**, and enabling new investor deals.

NEAR Protocol, Toronto   Toronto, ON
Director of Technical Product & Growth   *May 2024 – Sept. 2024*
- Built privacy‑first mental health platform from concept by gathering stakeholders requirements, and leading engineering team through roadmap, sprints, and code reviews for "Seahorse" (**on‑device RAG, NEAR contracts**), delivering **investment‑ready MVP enabling 2 successful live demos at major hackathons, and securing $750K in funding.**
- Drove NEAR Toronto ecosystem growth by managing event sponsorships and technical activations, increasing local developer engagement by 40%.

Webisoft   Montreal, QC
Software Engineer   *July 2024 – Oct. 2024*
- Modernized spreadsheet‑based RFQ system by **migrating 1k+ Excel tables** to a custom full stack web dashboard (**React & Express.js**), cutting processing time for hundreds of employees **managing $100M+ RFQs**.

Shopify   Toronto, ON
Software Engineer – Unified App Deployments   *Jan. 2023 – Apr. 2023*
- Continued work on the Shopify Partner third‑party extension hosting infrastructure by extending the **Ruby on Rails** backend with new **GraphQL** endpoints and migrating existing **REST** endpoints, supporting interactions from **2,000+ developers daily**.
- Built new React/TypeScript sections in Shopify Partner Dashboard interfacing with backend endpoints to enable extension configuration and management.

Software Engineer – Unified App Deployments   *May 2022 – Aug. 2022*
- Contributed to building a system for Shopify Partners to host third‑party extensions directly on Shopify infrastructure, adding **OAuth** fixes and interactive features to official open‑source Shopify CLI (**TypeScript**) used daily by **850 third‑party applications**.
- Modernized the Shopify Partner Dashboard frontend by migrating from **Ruby on Rails** to **TypeScript and React** while implementing Shopify's updated design philosophy, improving UX for **1.1M+ DAU (daily active users)**.

Magnet Forensics   Waterloo, ON
Software Engineer – Systems, Tools, and Software   *Sept. 2021 – Dec. 2021*
- Maintained Jenkins‑based CI pipelines and internal tools for the Systems, Tools, and Software (STS) team, supporting 100+ engineers across multiple departments.
- Improved an internal Build Dashboard by adding features in React, Redux, C#, ASP.NET, and SignalR to give teams better insight into build status and system health.

Technical Skills

Languages: JavaScript, TypeScript, C, C#, Python, Java (6‑11), C++, Ruby, CSS, HTML, R, TeX

Frameworks: Next.js, React, Vite, Redux, Bootstrap, Mantine, Chart.js, D3.js, WordPress, ASP.NET, Express.js, Django, Fastify, Discord.js, Discord.py, Ruby on Rails, GraphQL, REST, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Numpy, Seaborn, Matplotlib, scikit‑learn, OpenMPI, GNU MP, Android Studio, NLTK

Tools: Git, Jenkins, Maven, Gradle, Docker, Notion, Jira, Trello, Notion, PRTG, Figma, Canva, LaTeX, Google Cloud Platform, TravisCI

Game Development: LibGDX, LWJGL, OpenGL, Pygame, Box2D, Ashley/Artemis ECS, Unreal Engine 4 & 5, Unity, Three.js

Databases, Cloud, and Infra: AWS (EC2, S3, Lightsail), Azure (DevOps Services, AI & ML Services), Google Firebase (Cloud Functions, Cloud Firestore, Authentication, Hosting, Storage), MongoDB, SQLite, MySQL, MariaDB, Redis