

Nausher Rao

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

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Education

Wilfrid Laurier University

Honours BSc Computer Science w/ Applied Mathematics Option

Waterloo, ON

Sept. 2019 – Apr. 2024

Experience

Konfer

Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Waterloo, ON

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 life-cycle 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, Golang**) 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 event at the RIM BlackBerry Campus with Colliers and external contractors using structured Waterfall timelines for renovations, Wi-Fi, and broadcast AV infrastructure.

SPUR Innovation Center

Project Manager – Incubation, Events & Operations, and Technical Development

Waterloo, ON

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

Director of Technical Product & Growth

Toronto, ON

May 2024 – Sept. 2024

- Built a privacy-first distributed-system for a mental health platform from concept by gathering stakeholders' requirements, and leading engineering team through roadmap, sprints, and code reviews for "Seahorse" (**React, TypeScript, Next.js, Python, on-device RAG, MiniLM-L6-v2 embeddings, WebLLM, 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 600 DAU (daily active users)**.

Webisoft

Software Engineer

Montreal, QC

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

Software Engineer – Unified App Deployments

Toronto, ON

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** API 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 API 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**.

Magnet Forensics

Software Engineer – Systems, Tools, and Software

Waterloo, ON

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, Electron, Redux, Bootstrap, Mantine, Chart.js, D3.js, WordPress, ASP.NET, Express.js, Django, Fastify, Discord.js, Ruby on Rails, GraphQL, REST, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Numpy, Seaborn, Matplotlib, scikit-learn, OpenMPI, GNU MP, Android Studio, NLTK

Tools: Git, Cloudflare, 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, AI & ML Services), Google Firebase (Cloud Functions, Firestore, Authentication, Hosting, Storage), MongoDB, SQLite, MySQL, MariaDB, Redis, LangCache