Mirza Najafov

Senior Backend Engineer

Baku, Azerbaijan (UTC+4) · Open to remote roles and relocation
mirza@najafov.dev · najafov.dev · github.com/mirzanajafov · linkedin.com/in/mirza-nacafov

SUMMARY

I have built backends for over seven years, in Node.js from the start and in NestJS and TypeScript for remote teams in Tel Aviv, Dubai and Amsterdam since 2023. Most of that work is APIs, performance and background jobs. Lately that means a PHP to NestJS migration at MemeDroid and a Stripe payment system at NeuroTime AI, where I also build React features. I built the projects below on my own time.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer, NeuroTime AI

Jul 2026 – present · Baku, Azerbaijan
AI company behind Obsera, a SaaS platform for media monitoring, social media management and AI content generation.

- Design and build the payment system with Stripe, including checkout, subscriptions and webhook handling.
- Own Node.js services and REST APIs in NestJS and TypeScript from design to production, and review the team's pull requests.
- Build React and TypeScript front-end features from the team's designs.
- Develop the web scraping pipelines that collect news and social media data for Obsera's media monitoring.
- Prepare datasets and training workflows in Python for NLP models, including sentiment analysis.
- Wrote data ingestion services in Go.

Backend Engineer, MemeDroid

Sep 2025 – present · Amsterdam, Netherlands (remote) · Freelance
Meme and AI content platform with millions of active users.

- Planned and led the migration of the core codebase from PHP to NestJS and TypeScript.
- Ported the i18n support from PHP to the new NestJS backend without breaking localized content.
- Moved heavy image processing into background workers with Redis and BullMQ, so API requests no longer wait on long-running jobs.
- Built the AI image processing service, integrating third-party AI APIs and handling file storage and processing jobs.
- Designed the PostgreSQL schema with Prisma for asset processing.
- Added Jest unit tests to the migrated modules and reviewed the pull requests that moved them.

Backend Engineer, Thinking IT

Apr 2025 – Dec 2025 · Dubai, UAE (remote) · Contract
Technology consultancy building backend systems for enterprise clients.

- Tuned slow SQL queries and built REST APIs in Node.js and NestJS for client projects.
- Set up asynchronous processing pipelines to reduce data latency.
- Led refactoring work so that client codebases took less time to change.
- Agreed API contracts with frontend teams and supported client-side integration.

Backend Engineer, UpSell (ex-ReConvert)

Feb 2023 – Aug 2025 · Tel Aviv, Israel (remote)
E-commerce platform providing real-time upsells for high-volume Shopify and Wix stores.

- Built REST APIs in Node.js, NestJS and TypeScript and cut response times on critical services.
- Led a large refactoring for performance, which also cleared a lot of old tech debt.
- Improved caching and the AWS deployment workflow, which cut production incidents.
- Built backend integrations and payment processing pipelines for Minta.ai, an AI video automation platform.
- Maintained and scaled ReConvert.io's backend and Shopify GraphQL integration for high-traffic stores.

Freelance Backend Developer

Jan 2019 – Jan 2023 · Baku, Azerbaijan · Freelance

- Built backend services and REST APIs for small business clients using Node.js, Express and PHP.
- Developed e-commerce sites, admin panels and booking systems with MySQL and MongoDB.
- Handled deployment and maintenance of client projects on VPS servers.

MENTORING

Technical Mentor & Project Evaluator, DIV Academy

Feb 2026 – present · Baku, Azerbaijan · Part-time

- Review backend students' code and the architecture choices behind it.
- Grade graduation projects (Upwork and Twitter clones, among others) on reliability, security and query performance.
- Reworked the course curriculum around database normalization and clean code.

PROJECTS

Car Wash Ledger Every cent moves exactly once, through crashes and a lying bank
In 200 chaos runs, 135,048 payment journeys went through 8,792 process kills, 876 Postgres and Kafka crashes, 2,253 network faults and 9,108 forged webhooks without breaking an invariant.
carwash.najafov.dev · github.com/mirzanajafov/carwash-ledger

PortalGun A Go API gateway, measured against nginx, HAProxy, Envoy and Caddy
With probes, passive ejection and retries together, no request was lost in any of six injected faults at 2,000 requests a second, and p99 during the fault stayed at 5.8-6.0 ms.
portalgun.najafov.dev · github.com/mirzanajafov/portalgun-router

FiveFamilies Raft from scratch in Go, checked under partitions, crashes and pauses
Client histories of 287,516 operations stayed linearizable through 187 faults across six three-minute runs, from SIGKILL and freezes to partitions and membership changes on five nodes in Docker, every node ending at one state.
fivefamilies.najafov.dev · github.com/mirzanajafov/fivefamilies

Matchium Dating matches from a model that shows its work
Adaptive questions reach the same accuracy with about half the questions, 12 instead of ~24.
matchium.najafov.dev · github.com/mirzanajafov/matchium

poof A deadline scheduler that measured when helpers help
A plain earliest-deadline pool met 5 to 24 points more deadlines than splitting late work across helpers.
poof.najafov.dev · github.com/mirzanajafov/poof

Marauder Live indoor positioning from noisy radio signals
Median position error at 6 dB of noise went from 3.59 m to 2.04 m, measured against the simulator's truth.
marauder.najafov.dev · github.com/mirzanajafov/marauder

SKILLS

Backend & core: Node.js, NestJS, TypeScript, Express, Go, Python, PHP
Databases: PostgreSQL, Redis, MongoDB, MySQL
Messaging & architecture: REST, GraphQL, BullMQ, RabbitMQ, Kafka, Microservices, Event-driven
ORM: Prisma, TypeORM, Mongoose
AI & integrations: OpenAI API, AI image processing, Web scraping, Model training, Stripe, NLP data pipelines
DevOps: Docker, AWS, CI/CD, Git, GitLab, GitHub
Testing: Jest, Vitest, Playwright
Frontend: React, Next.js
Ways of working: Code review, Agile sprints, Design docs

LANGUAGES

English (professional working proficiency), Azerbaijani (native), Turkish (fluent), Russian (basic)