

Rafael Hurpia da Rocha

Backend Engineer | Tech Lead

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SUMMARY

Backend engineer and tech lead with 9+ years building production systems in Python, focused on API design, PostgreSQL performance, and pragmatic architecture. Led an engineering team of 4-8 at The Silver Logic and founded a company-wide Community of Practice adopted for strategic technical decisions.

SKILLS

AI: RAG (llama-index), spec-driven development, agentic coding tools (Claude Code), structured prompting

Programming Languages: Python, JavaScript/TypeScript, SQL

Backend & APIs: Django, Django REST Framework (DRF), Flask, FastAPI, Node.js, Express, GraphQL, REST

Databases: PostgreSQL (ORM and raw SQL, query analysis and optimization), MongoDB, Redis

Infrastructure: Docker, Terraform, Ansible, AWS, Digital Ocean, Jenkins, GitLab CI, Linux, RabbitMQ, Bash

Observability & Security: Sentry, automated security scanning in CI/CD (TruffleHog, OWASP ZAP)

Leadership: Tech leadership, mentoring, code review, technical hiring input, Community of Practice facilitation

Languages: English (professional), Portuguese (native)

EXPERIENCE

DevOps Lead & Full-Stack Developer - The Silver Logic - Jun 2018 - Present - *Remote*

- **Tech Lead (4-8 engineers):** led architecture across 3 client projects; reviewed 10+ PRs/week; onboarded and mentored 10+ engineers.
- **Founded the company's Community of Practice:** grew it from a 15-person weekly Frontend group into the company-wide forum for strategic technical decisions; through it, defined the standard CI/CD process across Frontend, Backend, and DevOps, migrating deployments from Ansible to containerized Docker Compose.
- **Backend ownership:** designed and developed Python/Django services across multiple client projects - REST API design, data modeling, integrations - and improved the company's foundation framework used to bootstrap every new client project.
- **API and database performance:** led performance work across multiple projects — e.g. cut one page's load time from ~1 min (causing crashes) to ~4 sec by fixing N+1 queries (~800 to ~50 per request) and trimming over-fetching DRF serializers, working with frontend to make field requirements explicit in the API contract.
- **DevOps direction:** selected by peers as company-wide DevOps Lead; designed deployment pipelines (Jenkins, Terraform, Docker) used by all 55 company projects, integrated automated security scanning into CI/CD, and built CLI tools adopted by all 30 developers and QA - standardizing workflows and cutting support requests to the DevOps team.

Software Engineer - Scopus - Feb 2016 - Jan 2018 - *São Paulo, Brazil*

- Built Node.js/Express and Python microservices, including a GraphQL backend-for-frontend serving an Android client; managed Redis and MongoDB data stores.
- Owned containerization and CI/CD: packaged services with Docker Compose / Swarm, ran GitLab CI pipelines, and deployed to AWS (Ubuntu, CentOS).

SIDE PROJECTS & VOLUNTEERING

Focus Dive - Creator - focusdive.app - 2025 - Present - Pomodoro web app and browser extension that mutes Slack during focus sessions. Solo project: backend, web client, extension, and self-managed VPS deployment with Kamal.

Hack Your Future - Volunteer Mentor - Jun 2024 - Present - Teach web development fundamentals to refugees and newcomers in the Netherlands.

EDUCATION

Electronic & Computer Engineering - Polytechnic School, University of São Paulo

Honours graduate (Top 5). Dissertation: Indoor location and automation of drones (C++, ARToolKit, GStreamer).