Syed Fakhar Abbas

Engineering Lead | KYC, AML and identity verification

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SUMMARY

Engineering Lead at Programmers Force for nearly 4 years, promoted from Associate Software Engineer in 26 months. I lead a team of 7 to 10 engineers and build the KYC, AML and identity systems behind a platform with 1M+ monthly active users in 150+ countries, at 99.9% uptime. I trained as a mechatronics and control engineer. Open to senior and tech lead roles.

Top skills: System design, Backend development, JavaScript, Microservices architecture, Python.

EXPERIENCE

Engineering Lead

Programmers Force | Jan 2025 to present | 1 year 9 months so far

- Leads a team of 7 to 10 engineers.
- Unified separate agent solutions into one orchestrated platform across 10+ repositories.
- Led the platform decentralisation initiative.
- Introduced PR templates, architecture decision records and review SLAs.

Full-Stack Engineer, KYC and AML platform

Programmers Force | Feb 2023 to Dec 2024 | 1 year 11 months

- Built the core KYC, AML, EDD, OCR, KYI and KYT modules.
- Cut verification processing time by 60% with automated rule engines and parallel API orchestration.
- Lifted user conversion by 40% through load-time and UX work.
- Delivered 8+ client-specific compliance configurations with zero cross-client regressions.

Associate Software Engineer

Programmers Force | Nov 2022 to Jan 2023 | 3 months

- Shipped production features on the KYC platform.

Freelance Full-Stack Developer

Fiverr | Oct 2020 to present

- 20+ client projects across fintech, SaaS and e-commerce, using MERN and Vue.js with Node.js.
- Scoped, designed, built and shipped each one end to end, and handled the client conversation.

Chief Executive Officer

i-Sight | Mar 2022 to Sep 2022

Self-employed, before joining Programmers Force.

Data acquisition intern

Human Centered Robotics Lab | Aug 2021 to Sep 2021

Internship during the degree.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Merchant cockpit (Dashboard). A multi-language dashboard for merchants: real-time transaction monitoring, risk scoring, document review and case management, with configurable templates, webhooks and role-based access. 100+ languages through i18n.

Facial recognition attendance (Product lead). 1:1 and 1:N face matching at 99% accuracy, with active and passive liveness detection, responses in under a second and defences against 56+ spoofing types. Scaled to 10,000+ daily users.

KYC security hardening (Security). Closed injection attack vectors in live KYC stream processing with input sanitisation, query parameterisation and runtime validation, on a distributed multi-server architecture, with no downtime. Zero critical incidents since.

Behavioral WebSDK (Machine learning data). A WebSDK that collects keystroke, mouse and touch signals in real time to train a model that tells humans from bots. 98% human vs bot accuracy.

Manage-It (Internal platform). An internal task management platform built as a ClickUp alternative, in Vue.js, Node.js and PostgreSQL. 80% lower cost, $25 to $5 per user per year.

AI-assisted developer workflow (Tooling). Local LLMs (Ollama with LLaMA or Mistral) chained with prompts for code review, test generation and documentation. About 30% less manual review overhead.

SKILLS

Languages: JavaScript (ES2022+), TypeScript, Python, Go

Frontend: Vue.js (Vue 2 and 3), React.js, Next.js, Nuxt.js, Pinia, Vuex, Vue Router, Tailwind CSS, Vite, Webpack

Backend: Node.js, Express.js, REST APIs, GraphQL, WebSockets, Microservices, System design

Identity and auth: OAuth 2.0, OpenID Connect, CIAM, RBAC, Webhooks

Data: PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Redis

DevOps: Docker, CI/CD, GitHub Actions, Linux, Git

AI and automation: Agentic workflow design, Local LLMs (Ollama, LLaMA, Mistral), OCR pipelines, Biometric ML, Liveness detection, Risk scoring

Compliance and security: KYC, KYB, AML, EDD, GDPR, FATF, PSD2, Fraud detection, Injection attack hardening, Audit logging

Testing: Jest, Vitest, Cypress, Playwright, Mocha, Selenium

EDUCATION

B.Sc. Mechatronics and Control Engineering, UET Lahore

Crash Course on Python, Coursera, Dec 2022

Using Python to Interact with the Operating System, Coursera, Jan 2023

JavaScript LinkedIn Skill Assessment, passed