

Ricardo Leiva Castillo

Full-Stack Product Engineer — TypeScript · React · Node.js

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PROFILE

Full-stack product engineer with 12+ years building and owning complex web systems end-to-end, from API design and backend integration to React UI and production observability. Deep expertise in TypeScript across the full stack, and product-minded engineering that ships fast and stays reliable.

Currently embedded as a senior contractor at a US-based AI product company, driving technical direction, architectural decisions, and fullstack feature delivery. I take end-to-end ownership seriously: I define scope, make architectural calls, deploy, monitor, and iterate directly with customers. I use AI tooling (Cursor, Claude Code) daily and have built multi-agent orchestration systems that automate significant parts of the development pipeline.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer

Gorilla Logic (embedded at US-based AI Product Company)

Jan 2022 – Present

Remote, Costa Rica

- **Product Architecture:** Drove technical direction across a complex multi-module SaaS product, owning architectural decisions from design to deployment across the full React/TypeScript stack.
- **Systems Migration:** Led phased migration from Redux to React Query (TanStack) in a production system with zero critical incidents, improving reliability and reducing complexity across the codebase.
- **Real-Time Systems:** Designed and implemented real-time streaming UI features backed by Web-Socket and SSE integrations, enabling live data flows for AI-driven product features.
- **Performance & Optimization:** Drove Webpack to Vite migration for a 20-engineer team, cutting local startup time from 2 minutes to under 5 seconds and improving CI performance significantly.
- **AI-Augmented Development:** Built internal automation tooling using Claude API and multi-agent orchestration to automate PR creation, code review, QA checks, and Jira lifecycle management. Worked with AWS S3 and Amazon Bedrock as part of the AI feature stack.
- **Cross-functional Delivery:** Own end-to-end delivery within 8-week production release cycles, collaborating directly with Data Science, Backend, DevOps, and Design teams.

Senior Full-Stack Engineer

Hangar Worldwide

Feb 2018 – Dec 2021

Remote, Costa Rica

- **Technical Leadership:** Led a cross-functional team of 10 delivering 100+ digital campaigns for US pharmaceutical brands under FDA regulations, acting as the primary technical authority.
- **Full-Stack Delivery:** Contributed across the stack as needed: Node.js, PHP, and C# for backend integrations alongside React and JavaScript frontends.
- **Tooling & Standards:** Migrated legacy Grunt workflows to Gulp-based build systems and standardized reusable templates (Pug, Handlebars) across the team.
- **International Impact:** Selected from a 200+ person org to onboard a newly formed engineering team in India, establishing technical standards and cross-team workflows.
- **AWS:** Contributed to services running on AWS Lambda as part of backend integrations for campaign delivery infrastructure.
- **Mentorship:** Mentored junior and mid-level engineers through code reviews and architectural guid-

ance.

Full-Stack Engineer

WAM Digital

Jul 2014 – Feb 2018

Costa Rica

- **End-to-End Ownership:** Full-stack ownership across multiple client projects in a startup environment, frequently operating as the sole engineer responsible for delivery, deployment, and production stability.
- **eCommerce Platform:** Led development of a large-scale eCommerce platform for a national industrial equipment importer — 20,000+ products across 600+ categories, with ERP/inventory integration, payment processing, and DHL logistics connectivity.
- **AWS Infrastructure:** Managed EC2 instances, IAM roles, RDS databases, Redis cache, and SES for transactional email under live production traffic.

SKILLS

Languages & Frameworks: TypeScript, JavaScript (ES2022+), React, Next.js, Node.js, GraphQL, HTML5, CSS3

AWS: S3, Bedrock, Lambda, EC2, RDS, IAM, SES, Redis (ElastiCache)

Data & APIs: REST, GraphQL, WebSocket, SSE, React Query (TanStack), PostgreSQL, Hasura

Tooling & Delivery: Vite, Webpack, GitHub Actions, CI/CD pipelines, Docker, npm

Observability: Sentry, LogRocket, performance monitoring, error tracking, structured logging

AI & Automation: Claude API, multi-agent orchestration, LLM integration, Cursor, Claude Code

Practices: TDD, continuous delivery, trunk-based development, pair programming, technical spec writing

UI: Radix UI, Material UI, Tailwind CSS, accessibility (WCAG), design systems

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree, Computer Science

Additional studies in Classical Philology and Formal Linguistics

Universidad de Costa Rica

San José, Costa Rica

WRITING & PUBLIC WORK

ricardoai.me — Technical blog covering multi-agent AI systems, developer tooling, and product engineering. Recent post: “*AI agents don't follow up*” — on building observable, async agent pipelines for production development workflows.