Umut Topuzoğlu



Senior Product Engineer | Frontend, Full-Stack & Design | React & React Native

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

First of all, why me?

I love building interactive user experiences that are fun and engaging to use. I'm a creative, visual thinker who codes for a living and the fun of it. With over 12 years in senior and lead roles, I work as a product engineer with a frontend focus, taking features from idea and prototype to production. I combine deep technical skill with genuine design sensibility. Frontend is my home, but I'm curious about all the things and step into design, backend, databases, CI/CD or infrastructure when needed, especially to prototype quickly and keep moving fast. I work AI-native when the project calls for it: agentic engineering tools take over the routine so I can prototype faster, evaluate ideas, and ship production-ready features, and I review every line myself to keep quality high. In my free time I create open source software like my Bluloco Theme for VSCode and NeoVim which has around 1m downloads. Besides Software Engineering I'm also a professional artist, painting on canvas and big murals.

At a glance

- 12+ years in senior & lead frontend and product engineering positions
- React & React Native specialist, cross-platform iOS + Android
- Frontend-focused full-stack: design, backend, databases, CI/CD and infra when needed, especially for fast prototyping
- Design engineering: from Figma to polished, animated UI, including own UX concepts
- Freelance & employed experience, always in ownership roles
- Background in regulated fields (medical, industrial) and startups
- Dual expertise in engineering (B.Eng.) and visual design
- AI-native development and agentic engineering (Claude Code, OpenCode, Codex, MCP) to prototype and ship fast where the customer wants it; all generated code is reviewed to keep quality consistently high
- Open Source: Bluloco VSCode Theme (~1m downloads)

CORE SKILLS

Languages & Frameworks: JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML, CSS, SCSS, React, React-Native, React Navigation, Expo, Expo Router, Next.js, Remix, Redux, Redux Toolkit, Zustand, TanStack Query, i18next, Lottie, Reanimated

AI-Native Development: Agentic Engineering, AI-assisted Development, Prompt & Context Engineering, AI-assisted Code Review, OpenCode, Claude Code, Codex, GitHub Copilot, ChatGPT, Figma AI, Figma Code Connect, MCP Servers, Skill Files

Design Engineering & Prototyping: UI/UX Design, Prototyping, Design Systems, Animation, Figma, Sketch, Affinity Designer, Balsamiq

Backend, Databases & Cloud: Node.js, Python, Firebase, Firestore, GraphQL, Serverless, NestJS, MongoDB, MySQL, Postgres, AWS, Kubernetes, NGINX

Testing & CI/CD: Jest, Detox, Playwright, Cypress, CI / CD Pipelines, GitHub, GitHub Actions, Gitlab-CI, Jenkins, Bitrise

Tools & Practices: NPM, Yarn, Git, Ramda, Bash, VSCode, NeoVim, Ubuntu, MacOS, Docker, Docker Compose, JIRA, Confluence, Sentry, ConfigCat

Programming Paradigms: FP, OOP

Leadership & Collaboration: Leadership, Ownership, Mentoring, Team building, Code reviews, Agile, Scrum

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Tonies App, Tonies SE

Position: App Engineer
Customer: Tonies SE
Period: Mar 2026 – Dec 2026
Location: Remote

Worked as an App Engineer as part of the IoT Control team in a React Native Stack. Noteworthy parts of my work:

- Implementing new Components based on the Tonies Design System.
- Improving, extending and maintaining Tonies Design System
- Adding new features like Volume and Playback Control of the Tonies
- Fixed connection issues via bluetooth and wifi
- Removing technical debt and polishing for an upcoming big software and hardware release
- Improving accessibility by optimizing screens and components for usage via screen readers.
- Wrote lots of automated tests to ensure app quality is always stellar.
- Weekly app releases in a high volume workload environment

Results & Impact

- Improved app stability and connection reliability ahead of a major software and hardware release
- Raised overall app quality through a significantly broader automated test suite, catching regressions before they reached users
- Made the app usable with screen readers, improving accessibility for a wider audience
- Sustained a weekly release rhythm in a high-volume production environment without quality regressions

Technologies: react-native, expo, typescript, react-19, react-compiler, react-navigation, zustand, @tanstack/react-query, i18next, figma, app-store, play-store, sentry, bitrise, config-cat, poeditor

Physiofit App, Physiofit Digital GmbH

Position: Backend Engineer
Customer: Physiofit Digital GmbH
Period: Jan 2026 – Feb 2026
Location: Munich

Connect external health care management systems to the Physiofit app. Used web scraping and robotic process automation to also connect system that didn't have a public api. Create API for synching patient data and manage appointments.

Results & Impact

- Eliminated manual double entry of patient data by connecting external health care systems directly to the app
- Reduced administrative workload through automated patient data synchronization and appointment management
- Enabled integrations with systems that expose no public API, where conventional integration was not possible

Technologies: backend, typescript, javascript, nut.js, curl, robotic-process-automation, web-scraping

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Clypp Mobile App, Zesavi GmbH

Position: Senior React Native Engineer
Customer: Zesavi GmbH
Period: Oct 2024 – Nov 2025
Location: Munich

Redesign and technical implementation of the Clypp mobile app as an Expo project using a modern technology stack. Responsible for selecting and integrating all necessary libraries and the application architecture. Noteworthy features implemented:

- Creation and uploading of video tutorials directly in the app
- AI-supported translation of content into multiple languages
- Full offline functionality including all translations, assets, and attachments
- Management and editing of various attachment formats
- Integrated training system for training courses and certifications

Collaboration:

Close collaboration with designers and developers. Regular discussion of design and implementation proposals until final implementation. Focus was on a clean code base, user-friendly operation, and reliable performance.

Results & Impact

- Rebuilt the app on a modern, maintainable architecture, making new features faster and cheaper to ship
- Full offline functionality keeps the app fully usable without a connection, including all content and attachments
- AI-supported translation cut the effort of publishing content in multiple languages
- The integrated training and certification system turned the app into a platform for courses and certifications

Technologies: react-native, expo, typescript, react-19, expo-router, zustand, @tanstack/react-query, ky, react-native-paper, i18next, react-native-video, expo-audio, figma, github-actions, app-store, play-store

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Venta AI, april.eleven GmbH

Position: Frontend Engineer
Customer: april.eleven GmbH
Period: Aug 2025 – Oct 2025
Location: Munich

- Optimization of Venta AI Web Software Email Outreach Feature. Fixed redundancies and code smell, the outreach feature runs now faster and more reliable.
- Added custom text blocks to markdown editor, which parses and displays bracket keywords differently.
- E2E Tests for critical parts of the app with Stably.AI Playwright and AI driven tests with self heal feature, and added Gitlab Integration for continuous testing and improvement.

Results & Impact

- Email outreach runs measurably faster and more reliably, improving campaign throughput and deliverability
- Custom text blocks with keyword parsing let users personalize outreach at scale
- AI-driven, self-healing E2E tests in GitLab CI catch regressions early and reduce test maintenance effort

Technologies: typescript, react, remix-run, ag grid, mantine, locize, tiptap editor, ssr, playwright, ai driven tests (stably.ai), strapi, doppler, docker

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Workshop modern stack, AON Deutschland

Position: Workshop Instructor
Customer: AON Deutschland
Period: Aug 2019 – Sep 2019
Location: Munich

Workshop on creating a modern web interface for calculating various insurance-related figures. Modern technologies presented: VueJS, Laravel, MongoDB

Development of the technical concept together with the on-site development team, functional concept, prototyping, UX design

Results & Impact

- Upskilled the on-site development team on a modern web stack (Vue.js, Laravel, MongoDB)
- Delivered a concrete functional concept and prototype the team could build on after the workshop

Technologies: typescript, vue, laravel, mongodb

Lead Frontend Engineer, Smokeless.world

Position: Lead Frontend Engineer
Employer: Smokeless.world
Period: Nov 2019 – Nov 2023
Location: Munich

Design, development and deployment of a gamified mobile application built with React Native (cross-platform Android and iOS) in a medically regulated field. The app connected via Bluetooth to a hardware device designed to help users quit smoking. The app featured over 150 screens with complex onboarding flows and navigation logic. All components were custom built with extensive use of Lottie and Reanimated animations for a polished, engaging user experience. Core features included puff counting and device syncing via Bluetooth, guided therapy sessions, interactive quizzes, mini games like Snake and Tetris, community features with groups and chats, and a a star-based reward system that motivated users for staying on track with their smoking goals. Responsible for the full stack: React Native frontend, Firebase Cloud Functions, Firebase Admin, Cloud Firestore database design, and a Single Page App with React. Later migrated the backend from Firebase to GraphQL with NestJS on Kubernetes. Set up the complete continuous build pipeline for both Android and iOS apps with e2e test integration using Gitlab-CI on local MacOS and Ubuntu hardware as well as containerized runners with Docker. Led and mentored a team of working students, with a strong focus on code quality through regular code reviews and knowledge sharing. Documented development practices and release processes to meet the requirements of a medical regulated field.

Results & Impact

- Delivered a complete product in a medically regulated field — cross-platform app, backend and release infrastructure, from design to production
- Migrated the backend from Firebase to GraphQL with NestJS on Kubernetes, improving scalability, reliability and independence from a single vendor
- Established a CI/CD pipeline with integrated E2E tests, enabling frequent, confident releases despite regulatory requirements
- Built up the team through mentoring and regular code reviews, raising overall code quality and knowledge sharing

Technologies: react-native, typescript, react, react-navigation, redux toolkit, rtk-query, firebase firestore, cloud functions, serverless, graphql, i18njs, sketch, lottie animations, react-reanimated, gitlab ci pipelines, custom runners, vpn setup, kubernetes

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Lead Frontend Engineer, emax-digital

Position: Lead Frontend Engineer
Employer: emax-digital
Period: May 2019 – Aug 2019
Location: Munich

Design, development and deployment of a Single Page Application with React, Redux and Ant-Design. Responsible for the frontend architecture and technical decisions. The app manages different schedulers via AWS that find and track important information about Amazon Marketplace products, such as ad performance, digital shelf space, ranking and keyword positions. Built interactive dashboards and data visualizations with Chart.js to help users

understand their product performance at a glance. Set up the development environment with Docker and Docker Compose for consistent local development and deployment.

Results & Impact

- Gave users an at-a-glance view of Amazon product performance, enabling faster and better-informed decisions
- Established a clear frontend architecture, keeping the codebase consistent and maintainable as the product grew
- Standardized development and deployment with Docker and Docker Compose, reducing environment-related issues

Technologies: typescript, react, ant-design, chartjs, aws, docker, docker-compose

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Web- / App-Developer, GROB-WERKE Mindelheim

Position: Web- / App-Developer
Employer: GROB-WERKE Mindelheim
Period: Mar 2014 – Apr 2019
Location: Mindelheim

Design, development and deployment of hybrid mobile applications and single page applications in the field of Industry 4.0, with unit, integration and e2e tests, pair programming, code reviews and Scrum. Joined as the first employee and formed a whole new department that grew to 35 employees as a new business unit. Took full ownership of the product GROB4Line from idea to production. Built a hybrid mobile app to connect live data of milling machines, like current program, axis positions and error messages, with the ability to control the machine program and states remotely. Responsible for UI/UX design of new components and workflows, using Affinity Designer and Balsamiq. Set up production and test environments in the cloud (Linux, NGINX, OpenVPN) and built development tools and a continuous delivery pipeline with GitHub, Jenkins, Nexus and Nevercode (Mobile CI/CD). Maintained and monitored networked systems and application software.

Results & Impact

- Built an entirely new business unit as the first employee, growing the department to 35 people
- Took the product GROB4Line from idea to production, delivering a working Industry 4.0 solution
- Enabled remote monitoring and control of milling machines, reducing downtime and speeding up response to machine issues
- Professionalized the engineering workflow with cloud environments and a continuous delivery pipeline, improving release reliability

Technologies: javascript, angularjs, typescript, angular, ionic, cordova, python, cnc programming, heidenhain + siemens

Scrum Master, GROB-WERKE Mindelheim

Position: Scrum Master
Employer: GROB-WERKE Mindelheim
Period: Sep 2016 – Dec 2018
Location: Mindelheim

Introduced and educated the department in Scrum methodology, establishing all ceremonies including sprint planning, daily stand-ups, reviews and retrospectives. Led two teams of 10 people each as a servant leader and agile coach, optimizing workflow processes and helping the teams continuously improve their way of working. Introduced and maintained JIRA and Confluence as an administrator, setting up project boards, workflows and documentation standards for the department. Known for quickly grasping complex situations and identifying what matters most, enabling the teams to stay focused and deliver effectively.

Results & Impact

- Established Scrum as the department's way of working, making delivery more predictable and transparent
- Led two teams of 10 as servant leader and agile coach, improving collaboration and continuous improvement
- Introduced JIRA and Confluence standards for boards, workflows and documentation, giving the department a single source of truth

Technologies: planning I + II, daily standup, review, retrospective, jira, confluence

EDUCATION

Industrial electronics, dual studies (B. Eng.), Hochschule Ulm

Mar 2010 – Mar 2014

Thesis, grade 1.4

Visualizing machine status information on mobile devices

Electronics technician for automation technology, GROB-WERKE Mindelheim

Sep 2009 – Mar 2012

Part of the dual study Industrial Electronics

General University Entrance Qualification

Sep 2000 – Mar 2009

Maristenkolleg Mindelheim

LANGUAGES

- German, native
- Turkish, native
- English, fluent

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Open Source Projects
  - Bluloco Theme — Color scheme ecosystem for editors & terminals (1M+ installs, 700+ GitHub stars), with ports for Neovim, VS Code, Zed, JetBrains, and 23 terminals
  - bluloco.nvim — Neovim plugin written in Lua with 40+ plugin integrations (460+ stars)
  - lualine-grapple — Neovim plugin for grapple.nvim integration in lualine statusline
  - syntax-highlighting-samples — Code snippets for testing syntax highlighting (58+ stars)
  - numix-cursor — X-cursor theme for Numix (42+ stars)
  - macos-german-nodeadkeys — German keyboard layout without dead keys (22+ stars)
- Secretary (Schriftführer) — Verein zur Förderung Urbaner Kunst e.V.

INTERESTS

painting, making music, mechanical keyboards, productivity, personal development, cooking, sports, gaming