

EQBAL QUR'AN

Chief Technology Officer — AI/ML, Blockchain, and Scalable Platform Architecture

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Accomplished Chief Technology Officer with 18+ years leading technology strategy, engineering excellence, and digital transformation across gaming, fintech, and on-demand services. Proven track record of scaling platforms to millions of users, achieving 10x infrastructure growth, and driving 40–50% boosts in productivity, engagement, and retention. Expert in AI, machine learning, blockchain/DApps, and cloud architectures, delivering innovative, revenue-driving solutions. Skilled at building and leading global high-performance teams of 50–100+ engineers across multiple countries. Recognized thought leader with publications in Toptal, AWS, and HERE Technologies, shaping industry innovation in scalable, data-driven platforms.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Chief Technology Officer | Playhera – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

FEBRUARY 2021 – FEBRUARY 2025

- **Technology Leadership & Team Scaling** – Built and transformed the engineering organization into a product-centric powerhouse, recruiting and mentoring 50+ senior engineers, increasing delivery efficiency by 30%, and embedding innovation as a core cultural driver.
- **Platform Development & Scalability** – Directed the architecture and launch of Playhera's gaming and esports platform, scaling to 500K+ active users, delivering 35% YoY user growth through Gaming-as-a-Service (GaaS) APIs, and optimizing infrastructure for high-concurrency cloud environments.
- **Innovation in Gaming Tech & AI** – Integrated advanced cloud gaming and e-commerce capabilities while designing an AI-driven recommendation engine, boosting user retention by 50% and engagement by 40%, and enabling personalized content discovery at scale.
- **Blockchain & Monetization Strategy** – Pioneered blockchain-based decentralized applications (DApps) to enhance transaction security, unlock new in-game monetization models, and strengthen Playhera's competitive edge in the global gaming economy.

Chief Technology Officer | Mrsool – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

MAY 2019 – FEB 2024

- **Technology Infrastructure Transformation** – Scaled Mrsool's technology stack from startup to enterprise-grade, increasing system capacity by 10x, enabling seamless handling of massive traffic surges, and ensuring high availability for millions of transactions across the MENA region.
- **High-Performance Team Leadership** – Built and led a 100+ member multidisciplinary engineering team, transitioning from the founding group to a mature agile organization, boosting productivity by 40% and customer satisfaction by 50% through structured development and training programs.
- **Product & Service Innovation** – Spearheaded strategic tech initiatives that positioned Mrsool as a top on-demand delivery platform, improving operational efficiency, reducing delivery time, and supporting an 80% increase in active user traffic.
- **Codebase Modernization & Process Optimization** – Refactored core repository architecture and streamlined requirement-gathering workflows, improving code maintainability by 50%, accelerating release cycles by 35%, and aligning all technical deliverables with evolving business and marketing strategies.

Chief Technology Officer | Floos.me – Dubai, UAE

JAN 2017 – DEC 2019

- **Engineering Leadership & Process Excellence** – Directed a hands-on development team of 20 engineers, implementing process enhancements that improved accountability by 15% and increased overall development quality by 20%.
- **AI-Driven Product Innovation** – Founded and led a dedicated machine learning squad, designing a user scoring model leveraging social activity data that increased customer engagement by 25% and informed product personalization strategies.
- **Full-Stack Product Development** – Designed and launched an interactive React.js portal, improving platform usability and boosting user engagement rates by 30%, while ensuring scalability and performance for high-volume fintech transactions.
- **Agile Delivery & Quality Assurance** – Managed cross-functional teams using Agile methodologies, conducting code reviews for 30 engineers to uphold high-quality standards, achieving a 95% on-time delivery rate and a 40% improvement in project execution efficiency.

Senior Solution Architect – Engineering Lead | Toptal – New York, USA

JAN 2014 – DEC 2019

- **Solution Architecture & Stakeholder Alignment** – Designed and communicated scalable technical solutions to senior stakeholders, ensuring project scope, requirements, and deliverables were fully aligned with business objectives and client expectations.
- **Full-Stack Development & Cloud Integration** – Delivered high-impact projects leveraging Ruby, Rails, TDD, CSS, JavaScript, jQuery, iOS (RubyMotion), and cloud/server architecture, optimizing application performance, maintainability, and deployment workflows.
- **Quality Assurance & Process Optimization** – Established quality control procedures, implemented defect tracking, and conducted regular code reviews, improving development standards, reducing defects, and ensuring consistent delivery across distributed engineering teams.

Technical Team Lead / Full-Stack Engineer | ClickFunnels – New York, USA

AUG 2018 – MAY 2019

- **Full-Stack Development & Feature Delivery** – Engineered and deployed user-facing features using Ruby on Rails, JavaScript, jQuery, and TDD practices, enhancing platform functionality, improving user experience, and ensuring scalability for high-traffic marketing funnels.
- **Codebase Refactoring & Workflow Optimization** – Led the refactoring of the primary repository to improve maintainability and performance, while managing workflow planning, task prioritization, and resource allocation to maximize team productivity.
- **End-to-End Project Execution** – Oversaw all phases of project development from coding to deployment, optimizing documentation for usability and performance, and effectively communicating technical solutions to senior stakeholders for business alignment.

Technical Manager | Cookpad MENA – Japan

MAR 2017 – AUG 2018

- **Engineering Leadership & Performance Management** – Directed a 25-member development team, achieving a 95% project success rate by implementing performance monitoring frameworks, strategic task allocation, and skill-based resource optimization.
- **Product Development & Feature Enhancement** – Designed and delivered user-facing features using Ruby on Rails, driving a 30% improvement in platform functionality and user experience while ensuring scalability for a rapidly growing recipe-sharing platform.
- **Quality Assurance & System Optimization** – Led rigorous code reviews, issue management, and documentation enhancements, reducing update rollbacks to under 5% and improving system usability and scalability by 25%.

Technical Manager | Mesitis (Canopy) – Singapore

JAN 2016 – MAR 2017

- **Team Leadership & Delivery Excellence** – Managed and mentored an 11-member development team, fostering a culture of accountability and high-quality coding practices that increased project delivery efficiency by 20% and consistently met critical deadlines.
- **Framework Implementation & Quality Assurance** – Designed and deployed a comprehensive development and testing framework, defining precise test scenarios that improved requirement accuracy by 30% and reduced defects in production releases.
- **Full-Stack Development & Technology Integration** – Delivered high-performance fintech solutions by integrating Ruby on Rails, Elasticsearch, EmberJS, Grape API, Elixir, PostgreSQL, Redis, Hadoop, and cloud infrastructure, achieving a 40% uplift in business objective attainment.

Software Engineer | Cubiic – Beirut, Lebanon

JAN 2009 – DEC 2013

- **Mobile Application Development & Backend Architecture** – Designed and developed iOS applications using Objective-C, Ruby, and Amazon EC2 backend services, including a Ramadan app and an SMS-based multi-platform chat solution integrated with Facebook, MSN, GTalk, and Yahoo.
- **Telecom Software Solutions & Scalability** – Led the design, development, and deployment of software for mobile operators, utilizing C++, Qt framework, and Amazon cloud infrastructure to deliver scalable, high-performance messaging and communication platforms.

Software Engineer | Naharnet – Lebanon

JAN 2008 – DEC 2009

- **Team Leadership & Collaboration** – Managed a cross-functional team of Rails developers, web designers, and graphic designers, improving collaboration and productivity, resulting in a 40% increase in project delivery speed and quality.
- **Agile Project Management** – Implemented SCRUM methodologies and leveraged Basecamp for task tracking and progress monitoring, enhancing team alignment, communication, and stakeholder engagement by 30%.
- **Web Development & Quality Assurance** – Led the development and maintenance of the Naharnet website using Web 3.0 and semantic (RDF) technologies, adhering to TDD and BDD practices to ensure high-quality, reliable, and user-focused digital experiences.

Web Developer | Jeeran Corp – Amman, Jordan

JAN 2005 – DEC 2008

- **Full-Stack Web Development** – Built and enhanced critical website features using .NET, C#, and Microsoft SQL Server, delivering robust functionality, seamless integration, and a 30% improvement in system reliability.
- **UI/UX Design & User Engagement** – Led UI/UX design initiatives incorporating Web 2.0 technologies, boosting user engagement by 25% and improving overall platform usability.
- **Product Innovation & Scalability** – Developed the first Arabic Facebook application “JeeranBlogger” using .NET, FBML, and FBJS, attracting over 100,000 users within six months, and optimized performance to support 50% year-over-year user growth.

EDUCATION

MICROMASTERS IN STATISTICS AND DATA SCIENCE

2020 – 2022

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

B.Sc. in Computer Engineering & Electrical Engineering

2000 – 2005

Al-Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan

CERTIFICATIONS

- **Probability: The Science of Uncertainty and Data** – Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) | 2019
- **Machine Learning & Deep Learning Nanodegree** – Udacity | 2018
- **Self-Driving Car Engineer Nanodegree** – Udacity | 2017
- **SCJP (Sun Certified Java Programmer)** – Sun Microsystems | 2008
- **CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate)** – Cisco | 2007
- **TestDome – Ruby Certification** – TestDome

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA FEATURES

Creating a Cryptocurrency in the Crystal Programming Language – Toptal Engineering Blog (2018)

- Step-by-step tutorial on building a blockchain-based cryptocurrency using the Crystal programming language.

Ruby Concurrency and Parallelism: A Practical Tutorial – Toptal Engineering Blog (2015)

- Practical guide to leveraging Ruby's concurrency and parallelism capabilities to optimize application performance.

Build Sleek Rails Components With Plain Old Ruby Objects – Toptal Engineering Blog (2015)

- Best practices for creating modular, maintainable Rails components using Plain Old Ruby Objects (POROs).

Mrsool: A One-Stop App Changing the Way We Think About Deliveries – HERE Technologies Blog (2022)

- Feature on transforming Mrsool into a super-app for last-mile delivery through strategic technology leadership.

Mrsool Delivers Anything, Anywhere with AWS – AWS Case Study (2021)

- Detailed case study on scaling Mrsool's platform with AWS to support rapid growth and high availability.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Scaled Mrsool's technology infrastructure 10x to handle massive traffic growth, enabling 80% increase in active users and securing its position as a leading MENA on-demand delivery platform.
- Launched Playhera's gaming & esports platform to over 500K active users, integrating GaaS APIs and driving 35% YoY user growth.
- Boosted engagement by 40% and retention by 50% at Playhera through an AI-powered recommendation engine and cloud gaming integration.
- Pioneered blockchain-based DApps in gaming, enhancing transaction security and creating innovative monetization strategies.
- Built and scaled engineering teams — recruited and led 50+ engineers at Playhera and 100+ at Mrsool, implementing Agile/DevOps practices to improve productivity by up to 40%.
- Delivered award-level fintech innovations at Floos.me, including a machine learning user scoring model that increased engagement by 25% and an interactive React.js portal boosting engagement by 30%.
- Published in top tech media & case studies, including Toptal Engineering Blog, AWS, and HERE Technologies, showcasing thought leadership in AI, blockchain, and large-scale system design.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Strategic Leadership & Business – Strategic IT Planning, Business Process Improvement, Digital Transformation, Monetization Strategies, Business Model Innovation, Lean Startup
- Project & Team Management – Agile & DevOps Practices, Recruiting & Mentoring, Cross-Functional Team Leadership, Productivity & Operational Efficiency Enhancement
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning – Keras, TensorFlow, scikit-learn, Computer Vision, Deep Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Robotics
- Blockchain Technologies – DApps, Ethereum, Truffle Suite, Solidity, Cryptocurrency Development
- Front-End Development – HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, React.js, Next.js, jQuery, Ember.js, Bootstrap
- Back-End Development – Python, Django, Node.js, JavaScript, Crystal, Spring, Ruby, Rails, Sinatra, C++
- Databases & Data Stores – MySQL, Oracle, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, NoSQL, Redis, SQL Server, Microsoft Access, GraphDB

LANGUAGES

- English
- Arabic