

Rowan Strydom

Senior Full-Stack Developer | AI-Driven SaaS & Scalable Systems

“Building scalable AI-powered media platforms with robust backend architecture and seamless UX”

Knysna, South Africa | +27 71 478 3508 | rowan.strydom@gmail.com |
linkedin.com/in/rowan-strydom-31620923

Career Objective

Versatile Full-Stack Developer with over 18 years of experience designing, building, and maintaining scalable SaaS and AI-driven applications. Adept at bridging backend systems, frontend experiences, and cloud infrastructure to deliver efficient, user-focused solutions. Seeking a role as a Senior Full Stack Developer, Technical Lead, or CTO within a dynamic organization where I can continue solving complex technical challenges and contribute to strategic growth.

Professional Summary

Highly self-driven software engineer with a proven record of delivering complex full-stack systems across multiple industries. Proficient in Python, JavaScript, TypeScript, Flask, Angular, and React, with deep expertise in API design, caching systems, and scalable architectures. Experienced in end-to-end product ownership—from concept and development through deployment and optimization. Known for independent problem solving, mentoring junior developers, and contributing architectural decisions that drive long-term maintainability.

Core Competencies

- Languages: Python, JavaScript, TypeScript, PHP (previous), C#, Java (previous)
- Frameworks: Flask, Express.js, Angular, React, Next.js, Node.js, Ionic, Yii (previous)
- Tools: Docker, Kubernetes (Lens, Code Capsules), Redis, MySQL, Stripe, IndexedDB, Tailwind, Redux, Bootstrap, SendGrid, LocalStorage
- Architectural Skills: API design, caching systems, subscription management, scalable deployments, WebSocket/SSE integrations
- Soft Skills: Self-management, mentoring, cross-functional collaboration, architectural decision-making, security optimization

Employment History

Full Stack Developer (Contracted via Artful Manner CC to Appstrax)

Mar 2020 — Present | Knysna, South Africa

Imaginario is an AI platform for media and entertainment professionals to analyze, search, and repurpose video content using multimodal AI. I joined on a short-term contract that evolved into long-term involvement, leading full-stack development efforts across both backend (Python/Flask) and frontend (React).

Key Technical Highlights:

- Developed scalable subscription engine with Stripe webhooks, enabling multi-user collaboration and shared access to enterprise-level resources.
- Architected a dynamic filtering engine supporting nested AND/OR operators, flexible schema-based GET filtering, and advanced database querying.
- Implemented WebSocket and Flask-SSE integrations to broadcast real-time updates to the UI, improving responsiveness and user experience.
- Introduced IndexedDB caching for faster UI responsiveness, enabling offline-ready interactions and instant updates without waiting for API responses.
- Created an internal admin dashboard allowing impersonation, user creation, and debugging—improving onboarding and support efficiency.
- Built deployment automation, handled image builds and Kubernetes pod debugging using Lens and Code Capsules.
- Collaborated on enterprise security updates, ensuring compliance with standards for pilot clients and large-scale deployments.
- Designed tools to trigger cluster worker processes via scripts, saving hours of manual effort for repetitive operations.

Other Projects

- thinkDirect (now Prescient Online) – Developed automation workflows for investment applications using Lumen (Laravel) API and Angular UI, integrating PDF generation, signing, and financial calculators.
- Telegram Coach Bot – Designed a Python-based bot using SQLAlchemy and APScheduler to help sports coaches manage sessions, clients, and payments.

Previous Roles

- Software Development Consultant, Synerics – Johannesburg | Mar 2014 — Mar 2016

- Website Developer, Raw Media – Johannesburg | Feb 2009 — Feb 2014

Education

Matric | La Salle College Roodepoort | Jan 1998 — Dec 2002

Additional Information

- Languages: English (Native), Afrikaans (Professional working proficiency)
- Hobbies: Fishing, kayaking, playing sports with family
- Awards: Contributed to Imaginario's multiple industry recognitions for AI innovation and SaaS excellence