

Sai Rahul

Senior Backend Engineer · Go · AWS · Applied AI

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x.com/sairahul1 (140K+ followers, writing on AI engineering)

Backend engineer with 8+ years at early-stage startups, usually the one who builds the backend from scratch and owns it in production. Go and AWS across fintech, satellite data and video. I also ship my own AI products: agents, LLM developer tools and fine-tuned small open models.

EXPERIENCE

Made Card · Senior Backend Engineer · Fintech, B2B2C cards and payments Dec 2025 – Present

- Cut cheque deposit turnaround from **2 hours to 5 minutes** with an end-to-end integration across the cheque-delivery API and the bank.
- Built an automated ledger, invoicing and reminder system for **100+ merchants**, saving ops 4+ hours a week.
- Built a subscription management service from scratch: detects subscriptions via Plaid and issues a dedicated virtual card for each.
- Replaced password login for **2,000+ users** with WebAuthn passkeys and OTP across mobile and web.
- Own the Snowflake data platform end to end; built a referral system (~100 referrals, no marketing), a segment-targeted in-app inbox and real-time fraud activity streams.

Stack: Go, Plaid, WebAuthn, Snowflake, ledger systems

Pixxel · Senior Backend Engineer · Hyperspectral satellites, Bengaluru Apr 2023 – Dec 2025

- Architected the **satellite imagery ordering platform**, the company's core revenue path, coordinating 5 teams and 5+ services.
- Rolled out platform-wide IAM (open-source Frontier) across every backend service.
- Raised test coverage to **90%** across all Go services and migrated them to Domain-Driven Design.

Stack: Go, PostgreSQL, Frontier IAM

Wakao · Backend Engineer, first employee · Video platform, Bengaluru Sep 2021 – Nov 2022

- Built the entire backend from scratch and launched the platform, including the video processing pipeline on AWS MediaConvert, EventBridge and Lambda, with Redis and DynamoDB caching.
- Built event-driven social features on SQS (likes, follows, votes, reports) and a near-real-time leaderboard tuned for high read throughput.

Stack: Go, Django, AWS (MediaConvert, Lambda, EventBridge, SQS, DynamoDB, ElastiCache, RDS, CloudFront)

Wysh & Gifskey · Backend Engineer · two products of the same company, Hyderabad Jul 2018 – Aug 2021

- **Wysh** (celebrity brand promotions): built the full product backend from scratch (REST APIs, database, cloud infra) the company launched and scaled on.
- Unified Razorpay, Paytm, Stripe and PayPal behind one payment service; built a dynamic pricing engine that raised per-order revenue.
- Built bulk email on AWS SES, Twilio/MSG91 OTP and messaging, and a WhatsApp (Zoko) sales channel.
- **Gifskey**: migrated the backend from PHP to Go and tuned the database and Nginx: **5x throughput** (500 → 2,500 req/s) on the same hardware.
- Cut multi-word search latency **80%** (1,000 → 200 ms) with a schema redesign and query rewrites, then to **50 ms** for top queries with a cache.

AI PRODUCTS, BUILT AND SHIPPED INDEPENDENTLY

DiffSight: AI pull-request reviewer that leaves focused inline comments on GitHub PRs. Pay-per-review.

diffsight.sairahul.dev

NicheTrafficKit: researches top-performing content in a niche, recreates posts and reels in proven styles, and schedules them. nichetraffickit.com

Askly: ask business data questions in plain English and get metrics, charts, dashboards and scheduled reports.

askly.sairahul.dev

DevRel Employee (in development): autonomous agent that tracks product changes and drafts grounded posts, articles and docs for human approval.

SKILLS

Languages Go (primary), Python, SQL, JavaScript · PostgreSQL, Aurora/RDS, Redis, DynamoDB, Snowflake

Cloud AWS: Lambda, SQS, SNS, EventBridge, MediaConvert, ECR, EC2, S3, CloudFront, Elastic Beanstalk

Systems Event-driven architecture, DDD, IAM, payments and ledgers, WebAuthn/passkeys, caching, search performance

AI LLM agents, fine-tuning small open models, specialized classifiers, LLM developer tools

EDUCATION

BITS Pilani · B.E. Computer Science

2013 – 2018