

LUKA RAKIĆ

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SUMMARY

Front-end / full-stack developer specializing in React, Next.js, and TypeScript, building pixel-perfect, responsive web apps from design specs through production deployment. Experience integrating REST APIs and shipping features end-to-end for international clients. National first-place engineering award winner (x2) and published IEEE researcher.

SKILLS

Languages: JavaScript, TypeScript, Ruby, SQL

Frontend: React, Next.js, Tailwind CSS v4, React Native / Expo

Backend & APIs: Ruby on Rails, Node.js, REST API design & integration

Data: PostgreSQL, Drizzle ORM, Prisma ORM

Platforms & Infra: Vercel, Heroku, Cloudflare Workers/Wrangler, Appwrite

Practices: Pixel-perfect UI implementation, real-time systems, custom auth & security hardening, subscription billing, client collaboration

PROJECTS

MechanicAI — AI vehicle diagnostics platform (mechanicai.lukarakic.me) *Mar 2026 – Present*

- Built a production AI diagnostics platform from scratch: React/Next.js frontend consuming a decoupled Rails 8 REST API backend, with custom Rodauth authentication for full control over email-verification flows.
- Integrated the GPT-5 API through a structured 4-step REST pipeline, turning plain-language symptom descriptions into structured diagnoses.
- Integrated Paddle's REST API/webhooks as Merchant of Record for Free/Pro subscription billing, handling EU VAT automatically.
- Deployed the React/Next.js frontend to Vercel and the Rails API to Heroku, with a custom domain and SSL.

Drawgether — Multiplayer social drawing platform (drawgether.lukarakic.me) *Jan 2026 – Present*

- Built a real-time multiplayer web app from scratch on Next.js, with real-time sync via Cloudflare Workers/Durable Objects and REST APIs against Appwrite for data and auth persistence.
- Built a complete custom auth system (registration, email verification, TOTP, forgot password) and Discord-style role-based permissions, served over REST endpoints.
- Built a collaborative undo system and a room state machine (Waiting → Starting → Active → Finished) with server-authoritative timestamps and client-side fallback ticking.
- Implemented cursor-based infinite scroll (IntersectionObserver) in a hybrid RSC/client architecture for the community feed.

EXPERIENCE

Webflow Developer (Custom Coding) — BrandedByGreenville *Apr 2025 – Jan 2026*

Remote, US

- Implemented pixel-perfect, responsive client sites (incl. purebio.com, reedyriverlandscapes.com) from design specs, using Webflow as a deployment layer and custom JavaScript/CSS whenever native tooling hit a technical wall.
- Built honeypot spam-protection into every form by hand, blocking bots without degrading UX with CAPTCHAs.

AWARDS & RESEARCH

- 1st Place — Best Science Research, IEEE STEC (Nov 2024): published researcher, DOI 10.46793/IEEESTEC17.045R — VisionOne, a hardware/software smart-glasses system with an integrated AI assistant.
- 1st Place — National "Galaksija Kup" (Mar 2024): ranked #1 nationally for hardware/software integration; self-taught Flutter and Bluetooth protocols in 8 weeks; app vetted by the UNICEF Innovation Lab.
- 1st Place — National "RAF Challenge 2024" (Mar 2024): built TaleFlow with Next.js (SSR/SEO), the ChatGPT API for story generation, and a custom secure auth system.

EDUCATION

B.Sc. Software Engineering — University Metropolitan Serbia *Sep 2025 – Present*

Niš, Serbia