Kefas Manda

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EDUCATION

Stellenbosch University   **Stellenbosch, WC**

BSc Computer Science (focal area Computer Systems)   *Graduation Date: Dec 2026*

WORK EXPERIENCE

Glyde Payments (FinTech)   **Cape Town, WC**

Software Developer   *Jan 2025 - Feb 2026*

Tech stack: Java, TypeScript, React, TanStack (Query, Router, Table), SQL, PostgreSQL, BigQuery, Python, Google Cloud Platform (Cloud Run), REST APIs, Webhooks, Terraform, Sendgrid

Cards Team - Product Engineering
- Designed and implemented OFX export feature enabling direct import into QuickBooks, Xero, and Sage
- Feature adopted commercially and monetized as paid account capability
- Migrated Reporting module from legacy frontend to TanStack-based architecture
- Built backend data export pipelines for financial statement generation
- Contributed to REST APIs and webhook-based integrations

Enterprise Team - Data & Monitoring
Transitioned to the Enterprise team due to strong performance in data-related tasks.
- Built and maintained data warehousing pipelines using BigQuery
- Developed SQL-based reporting workflows and transaction monitoring logic
- Worked extensively with PostgreSQL data models
- Contributed to backend services and enterprise reporting systems
- Operated within GCP ecosystem including Cloud Run, BigQuery, and managed PostgreSQL

Leadership & Architecture
- Mentored junior engineers and onboarded new team members
- Delivered structured knowledge transfer and responsibility handover
- Developed deep architectural understanding of full fintech system
- Contributed across frontend, backend, infrastructure, and data layers

Progressed from primarily frontend exposure prior to joining Glyde to contributing confidently across all core systems.

Metacom   **Cape Town, WC**

Embedded Systems Intern   *Jun 2024 - Jul 2024*

Tech Stack: C, C++, MQTT, ESP32

- Developed firmware components
- Worked with ESP32 microcontrollers and Arduino-based tooling
- Integrated MQTT for device communication
- Implemented HTTP client functionality on-device to communicate with server infrastructure
- Enabled remote firmware update capability via HTTP calls
- Feature deployed to production, improving firmware update efficiency and device performance

Gained hands-on experience bridging embedded systems with backend infrastructure in a production networking environment.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

FineApp - Creative Freelance Platform   **Stellenbosch, WC**
Founder-led Platform Engineer   *May 2025 - Present*

Tech stack: Spring Boot (Java), Next.js, React, MySQL, Auth0, Cloudinary, Railway, PayFast, WebSockets, Resend

- Designed and built end-to-end full-stack marketplace (Spring Boot, Next.js, MySQL)
- Implemented secure REST APIs with role-based access control
- Integrated PayFast payments with verified webhook processing
- Built real-time moderated chat and booking state management system
- Deployed and maintained production infrastructure

Business Impact
- Replaced manual email and WhatsApp coordination with fully automated booking and payment workflows
- Reduced operations to lightweight moderation only
- Increased platform scalability and efficiency
- Doubled creative onboarding after launch (15 → 30+ creatives)

Source code available for private demonstration upon request.

Spatial Edge Data Hackathon   **Stellenbosch, WC**
2nd Place   *Aug 2024 - Aug 2024*
- Built anomaly detection model using GCP datasets
- Designed predictive analytics solution under time constraints
- Placed 2nd overall