

NIKITA DEMENTEV

Engineering Manager / Team Lead · Web3 & DeFi · hands-on (Solidity, TypeScript, React)

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SUMMARY

Engineering lead with 10+ years in software and 8 in blockchain / Web3, who still writes code. Built and led teams of up to 10 (hired ~30 engineers over my career, grew several people from non-IT backgrounds to senior) across four products: Tornado Cash core team at PepperSec (ZK privacy protocol, peak ~\$1B TVL), two companies I co-founded (NFTxCards, zRexFinance) and Liquorice (DeFi lending, ~\$1M/day), where I owned roadmap, hiring, audits, delivery and partnerships alongside the founders. What I bring is process and architecture: Feature-Sliced Design, Storybook, CI/CD with E2E, code review standards and Claude Code / Codex in the loop, so teams ship weekly rather than fight fires. Hands-on across the stack: Solidity (Foundry), NestJS, React / Next.js.

CORE SKILLS

Leadership: engineering management, hiring & interviewing, mentoring & growth plans, roadmap & prioritization, delivery cadence, code review standards, cross-functional work with founders / product / design, vendor management (audits, marketing integrations), partnerships

Engineering: TypeScript, React, Next.js, Feature-Sliced Design (FSD), NestJS, PostgreSQL, Redis, The Graph, Solidity, Foundry / Hardhat, OpenZeppelin, Docker, CI/CD, Storybook, Vitest / Cypress / MetaMask E2E, Claude Code / Codex

Domain: DeFi (lending, leverage, intent settlement, AMMs), wallets & account abstraction, ZK / privacy, NFT marketplaces, payments; EVM (Ethereum, Arbitrum, Base, Optimism, Polygon, BSC), Solana, TON

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Engineering Lead & Technical Advisor — Liquorice, Portugal (remote)

Jul 2024 – Aug 2026

DeFi lending + intent-based settlement for professional market makers (CoW Swap, Uniswap X, 1inch Fusion, Bebop); ~\$1M/day through the protocol. Engineering team of up to 10.

- Owned the engineering side next to the founders: roadmap and prioritization, hiring, the MixBytes / Pessimistic audit cycle, marketing integrations and partner-facing technical work.
- Wrote the protocol core myself (lending pool, interest-rate model, liquidations, Chainlink Functions oracle, intent settlement; Solidity / Foundry / UUPS) and took it through audits to mainnet on Ethereum, Arbitrum and Base without incidents.
- Set up the frontend from an empty repo (Next.js + FSD, Storybook, MetaMask E2E in Docker CI); the idea-to-release cycle became several times shorter and new product hypotheses took days rather than weeks.
- Introduced a Claude Code / Codex loop (UI → tests → review) for routine work; reviewed contracts and frontend, mentored the team on Web3.

Tech: Solidity, Foundry, OpenZeppelin, Chainlink, Next.js, React, TypeScript, FSD, Storybook, Cypress, Docker, CI/CD, wagmi, viem, Claude Code, Codex

Co-Founder / CTO — zRexFinance, Dubai

Oct 2022 – Jun 2024

DeFi leverage protocol (up to 10x via Uniswap, 1inch, Aave, Compound) on Ethereum, Polygon and BSC; angel-funded.

- Owned the whole product: hired the team (frontend x2, markup x1, plus part-time contributors), set process and architecture, wrote the contracts and backend myself, led frontend delivery.
- Contracts: account factory, custom account abstraction, flashloan → swap → deposit routing; sole author of the public core-contracts repo. Backend: NestJS + PostgreSQL + Redis + The Graph for realtime positions and PnL.
- Beyond engineering: sourced angel investment, partners and integrations; had a say in product direction.

Tech: Solidity, Foundry, Hardhat, NestJS, PostgreSQL, Redis, The Graph, Next.js, React, TypeScript, FSD, wagmi, viem, CI/CD

Co-Founder / CTO — NFTxCards, Tallinn (remote)

Jun 2021 – Sep 2022

Collectible-card NFT marketplace on Ethereum + BSC: orderbook, 10k+ ERC-721, Chainlink VRF loot boxes, Merkle airdrops. Side project while at PepperSec, full-time from Mar 2022.

- Built the company's engineering from zero: hired and led a team of up to 10 (frontend x4–5, Solidity, backend, markup, some part-time), ran interviews, onboarding and reviews.
- Wrote the contracts with one engineer (audited by Distributed Lab), a The Graph subgraph generator, and the catalog virtualization that kept the 10k+ item marketplace fast.
- Launched on Binance NFT (~\$127K volume, 480+ followers); partnership with Polygon Studios.

Tech: Solidity, Hardhat, Chainlink VRF, The Graph, NestJS, React, TypeScript, FSD, Storybook, Ethereum, BSC, Polygon

Software Engineer → Team Lead — PepperSec (Tornado Cash core team), Seattle, USA (remote)

Mar 2020 – Feb 2022

Web3 security & development company behind Tornado Cash Classic / Nova, Multisender.app and NFT Multisender. Left ~6 months before the 2022 sanctions.

- Joined as a frontend engineer on internal tooling; within a year became team lead for 3–4 engineers (plus part-timers) across all company products. People came to me for help, then it became the job.
- Put engineering process in place: code review, coding standards, shared wallet provider and frontend kit reused by every product, release routine. A team without a strong frontend bench started shipping steadily.
- Hands-on: Tornado Nova and anonymity-mining contract rewrites, relay v1 and v2 from scratch (open source), public CLI, ZK proof generation in Web Workers (~5 min → ~30 s), MEV arbitrage bots, assembly-optimized Multisender contracts (~\$800M lifetime volume, 40+ chains).

Tech: TypeScript, React, Node.js, Solidity, Hardhat, Redis, The Graph, ZK (snarkjs), Ethereum, Optimism, Arbitrum, CI/CD

Frontend Engineer — SwapOnline · Next (insentry.io) · DaoCasino, Moscow

Mar 2018 – Feb 2020

Atomic-swap exchange (#4 contributor to open-source MultiCurrencyWallet), realtime video UI in a 2–3 engineer team, GraphQL + Storybook UI generator and FSD at DaoCasino.

Frontend Developer — Eastec · HTML Academy · Upwork

2014 – Feb 2018

Commercial web work; mentoring at HTML Academy, where I found out I like teaching people.

SIDE PROJECTS & OPEN SOURCE

- Multisender.app / nft.multisender.app** (2020 – present; NFT Multisender founded by me): ~\$800M / ~\$1M lifetime volume, all EVM chains; NFT Multisender ~\$300k/year profit.
- GitHub:** github.com/0xZick — zrex-finance/core-contracts · tornado-relayer · tornado-nova · tornado-subgraph · tornado-cli · swaponline/MultiCurrencyWallet

EDUCATION & LANGUAGES

Vladivostok State University of Economics and Service — Applied Informatics, 2013–2017 · English: B2 (working, daily) · Russian: native