Rafa Gomes

Head of Engineering — taking agentic AI from prototype to production, and building the teams around it.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil · Remote, global · rafa@rlabs.studio
rafagomes.tech · linkedin.com/in/rafagomesdev · github.com/rafagomes · 0xrafasec.com

PROFILE

Head of Engineering with 19 years in software, leading engineering at Oak Network — a US company building an agentic broker for the real estate industry, serving enterprise and hedge fund clients. Works on both sides of agentic AI: the systems that ship, and how the team itself is built around AI. A builder first — the person who can tell why an AI effort that demos well stalls in production or in the team, and fix it.

IMPACT

4
AI agents in production
Prototype to production, with cost, observability and usage metrics end to end.

10–15
PRs per engineer, per day
A 100% AI-native team on trunk-based delivery, with AI usage tracked per developer.

1M
protocol users at Gateway
Built the protocol hands-on, with ecosystem partners like the Solana Foundation.

EXPERIENCE

Head of Engineering · Oak Network
FEB 2025 – PRESENT

Agentic broker for real estate · enterprise & hedge fund clients · Head of Engineering LatAm from Feb 2025; promoted to global Head of Engineering in Mar 2026

— Lead 25 engineers across 3 countries; own the global roadmap, budget and hiring, and partner on every business decision.
— Took 4 AI agents from prototype to production, instrumenting cost, observability and usage metrics end to end.
— Product live with 3 major partners on a revenue-share model.
— Rebuilt engineering as a 100% AI-native team: 10–15 PRs per engineer per day after moving from 3 long-lived environments to trunk-based delivery.
— Built the context layer agents and engineers ship from — PRDs, architecture and security docs — and tracked AI cost and usage per developer.

Lead Full Stack Engineer · Gateway
JUL 2022 – FEB 2025

— Led the team while building the protocol, SDK and core products hands-on in Node.js (NestJS), Go and Next.js.
— Built the protocol that reached 1M users, with ecosystem partners including the Solana Foundation; the company was later acquired by Circle.
— Shipped private computing to production.

Founder · Self-employed
APR 2021 – JUL 2022

— Built and launched crypto products end to end: staking apps, smart contracts and NFT collections — from contract design and full-stack build to product strategy, community and marketing.

Lead Fullstack Engineer · Justpoint — JUL 2020 – JUL 2021

— Built React/Node products around proprietary AI that reads medical records for medical-malpractice discovery. New York, US.

Software Engineering Manager · Accenture Song — JAN 2018 – JUL 2020

— Managed 30 engineers delivering React and Angular products for XP Investimentos, Itaú, Gol, American Express and Coca-Cola.

Lead Full Stack Engineer · Huge — JUL 2015 – DEC 2017

Senior Web Engineer, Jul 2015 – Jan 2017 → Lead Full Stack Engineer, Jan – Dec 2017

— Built an internet-banking experience for an international client; full-stack work for American Express and Brazil's top-10 companies.

Partner & Dev Manager · Parafernalia Interactive — MAR 2013 – JUL 2015

— Ran technical and business operations as a partner, from business development to solution architecture and hands-on delivery for high-profile clients.

Earlier — SEP 2007 – MAR 2013

Senior Software Developer, HUGE (2011–13) — sites for Brazil's largest telecom; Veja SP with ThoughtWorks.
Senior Web Developer, 6D (2010–11) — full-stack seasonal sites for the fashion industry.
Web Developer, Kaus Mídia (2009–10) — PHP backends and ActionScript 3 frontends for media campaigns.
Flash Developer, Add Technologies (2008–09) — Flex/Flash apps with PHP backends.
Flash Developer, casa56 (2007–08) — campaigns and sites for clients including Petrobras.

EDUCATION

Postgraduate Specialization, Advanced Go Development — Full Cycle, 2024–2025
Ethical Hacker Nanodegree — Udacity, 2023
Technologist Degree, Systems Analysis & Development — Estácio, 2018–2021

EXPERTISE

Agentic AI — multi-agent orchestration, LLM tooling, agent cost & observability, AI-native dev workflows
Leadership — global teams, roadmap, budget, RFCs & PRDs, hiring & mentoring
Security — ethical hacking, threat modeling, secure-by-design

STACK

`Go · Rust · Python · TypeScript · Node.js · React · Next.js · NestJS · AWS · CI/CD · EVM · Solana`

OPEN SOURCE & WRITING

ai-workflow — open-source Claude Code plugin: spec-driven, trunk-based delivery with independent AI review
0xrafasec.com — security research blog
Leading with heart — what 18 years taught me about managing engineers

CERTIFICATIONS & AWARDS

Go Expert — Full Cycle, 2025 · CEH & Security Training — EH Academy, 2019 · Lead — ISE Business School, 2019 · ScrumMaster — K21, 2015 · VTEX Interface Developer — 2013 · Intranet Design Annual Award — 2013

LANGUAGES

Portuguese — native · English — full professional