DIOGO PIRES.

Co-founder & CTO

Engineering leadership · Fintech · Distributed systems · Big data

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At Zharta I hired the engineering team and architected every protocol we launched. Ten years in fintech, blockchain and big data, after an MSc in robotics and intelligent systems. Looking to lead engineering on AI products next.

$4M	$4M	$20M+	4
EQUITY RAISED	GOVERNMENT GRANTS	LOAN VOLUME	PROTOCOLS SHIPPED

EXPERIENCE

2021 – NOW

ZHARTA — Co-founder & CTO

On-chain lending and renting against NFTs, and institutional lending against tokenised real-world assets (RWAs).

- Raised $4M in equity ($300K pre-seed from angels, $3.7M seed from Greenfield Capital, Shilling and Possible Ventures) plus $4M in Portuguese government grants.
- Architected and led delivery of NFT Lending v1 (2022), NFT Renting v1–v3 (2023–24), NFT Lending v2 (2025) and Lending Pro, our institutional RWA lending product (2025).
- Grew the company to 20 people, half of them in engineering.
- 5K+ loans and rentals, largest loan $1M. RWA partners include Securitize, Centrifuge and OpenEden.
- Vyper contracts on Ethereum, ApeChain, Avalanche, Robinhood Chain; audited by Hexens, Hacken, Red4Sec.

2021

OUTSYSTEMS — Lead Product Architect

- Lead architect across two teams on One-Click Publish, designed to take apps from IDE to cloud in minutes.

2019 – 2021

MERCEDES-BENZ.IO — Software Architect

- Architected data supply systems feeding marketing and technical data for the smart and Mercedes-Benz Vans brands into Daimler platforms (AWS serverless, Kotlin, Python, Terraform).
- Built the R3 Corda points ledger for a gamified EQC app that rewarded battery-friendly driving.

2017 – 2018

APPCOINS — Team Lead & Software Architect

- Co-authored the white paper for a blockchain protocol covering app-store ads, in-app purchases and developer reputation. The ICO raised $16M.
- Led the 14-person team that built it, spanning Android, web, backend, blockchain and UX/UI.

2016 – 2017

APTOIDE — Big Data Architect

- Scaled malware detection 20x to 30K app scans a day at 98% first-pass success, 99.5% on same-day rescan.
- Built an analytics platform processing 5M+ events a day (Python, Apache Spark, AWS Kinesis, EMR).

EDUCATION

2008 – 2016

INSTITUTO SUPERIOR TÉCNICO

MSc Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, Robotics, Control & Intelligent Systems · BSc

- Thesis on robot mapping and navigation with SocRob@Home at ISR-Lisboa, winners of RoCKIn@Home 2015.
- Research grant on the EU USORA project, building a remote mobile-robotics lab. Paper published at REM 2015.

SKILLS

LEADERSHIP	Hiring & team building · Technical strategy · System architecture · Fundraising · Security & audits
ENGINEERING	Python · Vyper · Kotlin · Java · PostgreSQL · AWS · Docker · Kubernetes · Terraform · Apache Spark
DOMAINS	DeFi & on-chain credit · Tokenised RWAs · Distributed systems · Big data · Machine learning · Robotics
LANGUAGES	Portuguese (native) · English (full professional) · Spanish, German (elementary)