

Darko Ridić

Senior QA Automation Engineer | Test Architecture & Open-Source QA Tooling

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior QA Automation Engineer with **4+ years in test automation and test architecture**, built on a **12+ year foundation in front-end development**. I design automation frameworks that scale, turn testing into a release accelerator rather than a bottleneck, and build the tooling that makes QA teams faster – from CI/CD test gates that enabled **100+ deployments per week** to an in-house test management platform that replaced a paid tool.

My front-end background means I understand how applications are built and rendered, which helps me write stable, meaningful tests and collaborate closely with developers. I mentor both QA engineers and developers, and I'm experienced in Playwright, Cypress, visual regression, API testing and CI/CD.

My mission: to make the QA world better, day by day, by building open-source tools that let testers spend less time on setup and more time on quality.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

104

average deployments per week, up from 1–2 releases every two weeks

4,500

Cypress tests re-architected into a scalable, parallel framework

1

in-house test management platform that replaced a paid tool

4

open-source QA projects published to help the testing community

CORE SKILLS

Test automation

 Playwright  Cypress  Puppeteer  Mocha

Framework design, test architecture, Page Object Model, parallel execution

Testing types

 BackstopJS  Postman  Bruno

End-to-end, visual regression, API, unit, manual and exploratory testing

CI/CD & DevOps

 GitHub Actions  CircleCI  Jenkins  Docker  Linux  Bash

 Git

QA process

Test case design, test management, bug tracking & reporting, bug hunts, release quality gates, Agile

Languages & front-end

 TypeScript  JavaScript (ES5/ES6)  HTML5  CSS3  Sass

 Less  Vue.js  React  AngularJS  Webpack  Grunt  Gulp

AI-assisted engineering

 Claude Code  Cursor  Gemini  Higgsfield  Antigravity

Leadership

QA team leadership, onboarding, mentoring developers on testing, project management, communication

■ PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

QA Engineer

Sep 2023 – Feb 2026

Relay

Owned test automation architecture, release quality and QA tooling for a product relying heavily on third-party services.

- **Rebuilt the automation framework** – refactored a 4,500-test Cypress suite on top of my open-source cypress-boilerplate, with per-suite configurations merged into a global config, parallel runs across features and teams, and a documentation portal describing best practices and coding standards.
- **Transformed the release flow** – introduced test gates on every pull request, run against dedicated URLs before merging to production, moving the team from 1–2 releases every two weeks to **an average of 104 deployments per week**.
- **Built an internal Test Management platform** (Cursor, Mermaid, BMAD) for test cases, automation reports with AI summaries, bug hunts and custom analytics dashboards. It **replaced the paid test management tool**, cutting costs, and an AI contribution guide lets anyone in the company extend it.
- **Led the migration from Cypress to Playwright** – with ~70% of the product relying on third-party services, Playwright's support for multiple windows, tabs and third-party logins made it possible to test flows Cypress could not cover reliably.
- **Scaled quality ownership across engineering** – onboarded new QA members and ran sessions teaching developers to write and maintain tests for their own features and bug fixes, freeing QA to focus on new frameworks and coverage.
- Maintained and extended the automation suite daily, manually tested new features, wrote test cases and covered visual regressions.

Tech stack: Playwright · Cypress · Mocha · BackstopJS · Postman · Bruno · GitHub Actions · Docker · Strapi · Vue.js · Cursor · BMAD · Antigravity

QA Automation Engineer & Lead

Feb 2022 – Sep 2022

Scheer PAS

First QA member of the team – built the entire testing suite and stack for a complex Canvas-based application.

- Designed a Cypress framework that draws and interacts with diagram elements on Canvas, tracking the position and values of every element.
- Set up the CI/CD pipeline with automated and visual regression tests to ensure smooth releases.
- Led and mentored new QA team members and taught developers how to contribute to and maintain the Cypress and visual regression suites.

Tech stack: Cypress · Mocha · BackstopJS · CircleCI · Postman · Canvas

QA Automation Engineer

Feb 2022 – Sep 2022

Freelance project

My first dedicated QA automation role, which turned a passion for automation into a career.

- Wrote and maintained automated end-to-end and visual tests (Cypress, Puppeteer, BackstopJS) and API tests (Postman) to catch defects before launch, keeping them in sync with every front-end release.
- Pinpointed, analysed and documented bugs in the consolidated software documentation, working closely with developers on fixes. The project was delivered successfully.

Tech stack: Cypress · Puppeteer · Mocha · BackstopJS · CircleCI · Postman

Senior Front-end Developer

Jul 2015 – Sep 2022

NSoft · Mostar, BiH

- Built and configured large-scale web applications (300k+ lines of code) from scratch to launch, mainly in Vue.js, with React and Angular, and contributed to architecture and coding-standard decisions.
- Worked closely with the QA and design teams – the collaboration that sparked my move into test automation.

- Led a small team focused on animation and web app performance, and mentored beginners in HTML & CSS at the NSoft school.

Tech stack: Vue.js · React · AngularJS · Webpack · Grunt · Sass/Less · three.js · Jenkins

Junior Front-end Developer

Nov 2013 – Jul 2015

NSoft · Mostar, BiH

- Built and maintained web apps in pure JavaScript for the gambling industry, adapting them to low-performance devices such as Raspberry Pi and set-top boxes.
- Gained deep knowledge of the browser rendering pipeline (CPU & GPU) to deliver smooth, high-performance animations across all kinds of devices.

Tech stack: PixiJS · Vanilla JS · CSS · HTML

■ OPEN-SOURCE PROJECTS

Tools I build and share to make QA easier for everyone, one project at a time.

saucedemo-playwright

github.com/fleks-dev/saucedemo-playwright

A reference Playwright end-to-end framework for saucedemo.com – Page Object Model, team-specific configs, opt-in mobile device testing and Docker, with GitHub Actions for manual runs, scheduled weekday smoke tests and sharded test orchestration with merged reports. Manual test cases are documented alongside the automation.

Tech stack: Playwright · TypeScript · GitHub Actions · Docker

saucedemo-reports

github.com/fleks-dev/saucedemo-reports

Automatically publishes every saucedemo-playwright CI report to GitHub Pages and keeps the 10 latest runs linked in the README. Live reports: fleks-dev.github.io/saucedemo-reports

Tech stack: GitHub Actions · GitHub Pages · Python

cypress-boilerplate

github.com/fleks-dev/cypress-boilerplate

```
npx @optimumqa/cypress-boilerplate my-cypress-app
```

Following the Cypress docs alone often leads to messy code and a sprawl of environment variables – especially frustrating for beginners. This boilerplate generates a fully pre-configured, scalable Cypress project with useful plugins built in, so teams can focus on writing tests instead of configuration. Used as the foundation for Relay's 4,500-test suite.

Tech stack: Cypress · Mocha · EJS · Hygen · TypeScript

cypress-store

github.com/fleks-dev/cypress-store

A Cypress plugin that lets you store and share values between multiple spec/test files.

Tech stack: Cypress · JavaScript