Paul Herron – Contract Web Developer – CV

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Contract web developer with 12 years of commercial experience and a history of successful web builds. Proven ability to do successful 'technical turnarounds' on struggling projects, both through hands-on development and technical leadership. A focus on pragmatism and creating robust, elegantly simple solutions.

Skills Summary

Back-End Web Development. More than a decade of experience with PHP frameworks such as Symfony and CakePHP. Understanding of building maintainable, test-driven, scalable web applications. Strong knowledge of object-oriented programming, TDD and the MVC pattern. Extensive commercial use of PHP, MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Elasticsearch, RabbitMQ and Git. Use of many other languages like Python and JavaScript.

DevOps and Systems Administration. Several years of working with Docker to create automated builds, scalable infrastructure and predictable development environments. Extensive use of tools like Jenkins, GitHub Actions and BitBucket Pipelines. More than a decade working with Linux servers: provisioning, maintaining and tuning. Ability to administer Nginx, Apache, PHP, MySQL, PostgreSQL, HAProxy, Exim, OpenSSH and other services. Extensive command-line knowledge across Linux and Mac. Experience with cloud platforms like Amazon AWS, Rackspace Cloud and DigitalOcean. Experience working with production Kubernetes clusters.

Front-End Web Development. Good understanding of HTML5, JavaScript and CSS. Commercial experience with Angular 2. Proven experience developing quality, user-focused, accessible, standards-compliant and responsive websites. Experience with tools like Backbone, Grunt, Sass, Less, Bootstrap and Foundation.

Management and Workflow. Experience introducing and using agile workflows, and driving improvements on documentation and conventions. Ability to switch between management and hands-on development roles. Experience of building a development team and meeting business-critical deadlines. A history of liaising successfully with product owners and stakeholders, both technical and non-technical. Extensive use of Git Flow and continuous integration. An overall focus on pragmatism.

Employment History

July 2020 – Present: Senior Developer (Contract), London-based development agency
Development of a Symfony and JavaScript-based 'drinks menu generator' for Coca-Cola. Fully remote working.

March 2019 – April 2020: Lead Developer (Contract), Capitalise.com
Building a REST API and related features to automate the main business workflow. Working across a microservice architecture using Symfony, RabbitMQ, Kubernetes, Docker, Node and Loopback. Integrating with Microsoft Logic Apps and Salesforce. Mostly remote working.

February 2017 – February 2019: Senior Developer & Support Team Lead, Wireless Logic
Building features for SIMPro, an online platform for managing SIMs and IoT devices. Working with Symfony 3, RabbitMQ, Solr, MySQL, Angular 2 and Node. Building customer-facing APIs, both REST and SOAP. Leading the Development Support team, responsible for bug fixes and maintenance of the platform, as well as general troubleshooting issues arising from the management of millions of SIMs integrating with many third party providers. Responsibility for code review and production releases. Working to agile principles, using pull requests and code reviews. Helping to establish better testing and the use of tools like PHPUnit and SonarQube.

January 2017: Full-Stack Developer (Contract), ECS
Building point-of-sale applications for iOS and Android, using Angular, Cordova, Node, Express.js and Magento.

July 2016 — October 2016: PHP Developer (Contract), Adaptive Lab
Developing a REST API used by Forevr, a contacts application for Android and iOS. Using Symfony 3, domain-driven design, TDD and BDD, PHPSpec, PHPUnit, Dredd, PostgreSQL and Vagrant. Using PHP 7 for its enhanced language features and working with large denormalised datasets in Elasticsearch. Working closely with iOS and Android developers to establish desired functionality, and using BDD and API Blueprint to help codify this. Liaising with the business founder and other stakeholders. Maintaining load-balanced infrastructure in AWS, and deploying using Ansible and Travis. Integrating with the Facebook API and building a feature with SQS to send push notifications to mobile devices.

May 2016 — July 2016: Senior PHP Developer (Contract), Havas Worldwide
Maintaining and improving a Symfony-based crowdfunding platform for a global drinks brand. Deploying with Capistrano to a load-balanced setup in Rackspace Cloud. Working with CDNs, database migrations, unit and functional tests, the Facebook API and multiple translations for the website's worldwide audience. Front-end development with Twig, Sass, Grunt and jQuery. Database management of MySQL and MongoDB.

May 2015 – April 2016: Technical Lead (Contract), MBA & Company
Leading the development team in a total rebuild of this startup's web application and server infrastructure. Ensuring good architecture and a robust product. Hiring a technical team of seven developers and helping establish a productive working environment. Developing using Symfony, Doctrine, Node, Express.js, MySQL, Twig, Bootstrap and Sass. Scripting data migration and orchestrating the switchover to new infrastructure in Rackspace Cloud. Reporting directly to the COO and attending board meetings to update the company's investors. Working with the product team to define an MVP for launch, successfully meeting a very tight relaunch deadline, then leading the tech team in iterating rapidly on this. Establishing an agile workflow and test-driven approach. Using Chef to manage infrastructure and Jenkins for continuous integration.

October 2014 — February 2015: Senior PHP Developer (Contract), Amaze
Working on a CakePHP-based social publishing platform for a global hotel company. Working as sole developer, from early prototype to production site used by 22,000 employees. Establishing an agile workflow, coding conventions, Vagrant-based development environment and a focus on unit testing. Co-ordinating with project stakeholders both from the agency and the client company. Integrating with some of the company's existing infrastructure, such as LDAP authentication. Using tools like CakePHP, PHPUnit, Jenkins, Grunt, Sass and jQuery.

May 2014 – September 2014: Senior PHP Developer (Contract), MBA & Company
Acting as the technical lead, working with an in-house Junior Developer and remote teams in India and Russia to improve the application for a funded recruitment startup. Building features and reducing technical debt on the Yii-based platform. Reducing code duplication and establishing coding best practices for the team. Using tools like Backbone, Sass and Elasticsearch. Establishing an agile workflow and regular deployment process using tools like Jenkins.

July 2009 – April 2014: Back End Developer, SHOWstudio
Working alongside a Front End Developer on a total rebuild of the SHOWstudio website using CakePHP. Migrating server infrastructure from a single dedicated machine to AWS, using S3 and Cloudfront for assets and Wowza Media Server for live video broadcasts. Building and maintaining server instances in EC2. Migrating ten years of editorial content into the new application and orchestrating the switchover to it. Building features from scratch such as a blog, events calendar, project archive, online store integrating with Sage Pay and a content management area used by the editorial staff. Using tools like PHPUnit and HAProxy. Building some 'big data' features such as tracking millions of tweets and Instagram photos, and serving them from a Node server to create data visualisations. Managing mailing lists, corporate email and all other infrastructure.

March 2009 – July 2009: CakePHP Developer, Moonrocket Interactive
Building web applications for various corporate clients. Extensive work on an intranet application built in CakePHP for Turner Commercial Productions, allowing video and image assets to be shared internationally between staff. Building a Facebook application for LG.

December 2006 – June 2007: PHP Developer, Abraxor
Sole responsibility for the development of a large corporate website in CakePHP. Development and maintenance of various web-based corporate systems, such as a PHP-based document sharing tool for the World Gold Council.

Education

2007 – 2008: MSc Design and Digital Media, University of Edinburgh
Graduating with distinction. Awarded one of eight UK/EU Master's Scholarships from the University for that year. Awarded the Aart Bijl Student Prize for outstanding leadership in the learning and welfare of the student body. Studied topics such as 3D animation, hardware hacking and web development.

2003 – 2006: BA (Hons) Multimedia, Nottingham Trent University
Valedictorian, graduating with first class honours. Studied topics such as web development, video production, audio production, computer programming and 3D animation.