

Paul Herron, Web Developer – CV

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Contract web developer with 10 years' commercial experience and a history of successful web builds. Proven ability to do successful technical turnarounds, through both hands-on development and technical leadership. A focus on creating robust, well-crafted and elegantly simple solutions.

Skills Summary

Back-End Web Development. 10 years' commercial experience with [CakePHP](#). 2 years' commercial experience with [Symfony](#). Extensive use of other frameworks such as Yii, Laravel and Ruby on Rails. Understanding of building maintainable, test-driven, scalable web applications. Strong knowledge of object-oriented programming, TDD and BDD and the MVC pattern. Extensive commercial use of PHP, MySQL, PostgreSQL and Elasticsearch. Use of many other languages such as Python and Ruby.

Front-End Web Development. 10 years' experience with [jQuery](#). Thorough understanding of HTML5, JavaScript and CSS. Proven experience developing quality, user-focused, accessible, standards-compliant and responsive websites. Experience with tools like React, Backbone, Grunt, Sass, Less, Bootstrap and Foundation.

DevOps and Systems Administration. 8 years' experience provisioning and maintaining Linux servers to run high traffic, high availability websites. Extensive command-line knowledge across Linux and Mac operating systems. Experience with Git, Mercurial and SVN. Ability to administer Nginx, Apache, PHP, MySQL, PostgreSQL, HAProxy, Exim, OpenSSH and other services. Experience migrating to and working with cloud platforms like [Amazon EC2](#) and [Rackspace Cloud](#), various CDNs, and development tools like Vagrant, Docker and Jenkins. A keen eye for tight security and robust systems.

Management and Workflow. Long-term experience of working in and implementing agile workflows. Ability to switch between management and hands-on development roles. Experience of building a development team and meeting business-critical deadlines. A long 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 2016 – October 2016: PHP Developer (Contract), [Adaptive Lab](#)

Developing a RESTful 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 to it 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.

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, 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 10 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 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 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: Multimedia BA (Hons), Nottingham Trent University

Valedictorian, graduating with first class honours. Studied topics such as web development, video production, audio production, computer programming and 3D animation.