MUHAMMAD SHAFIQ

Senior Backend Engineer | Senior PHP Laravel Developer | Technical Team Lead | Software Architect

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Backend Engineer and Technical Team Lead with 9+ years of experience designing, building, and scaling backend systems for SaaS, FinTech, HR technology, and e-commerce platforms serving clients in North America, Europe, and the Gulf region. Expert in PHP 8 and Laravel, with production experience in Node.js, React, and Vue.js. Specialized in software architecture, system design, microservices, event-driven architecture, RESTful API and GraphQL development, MySQL and PostgreSQL performance tuning, Redis caching, and message queues (RabbitMQ, Kafka). Hands-on with AWS, Azure, Docker, Kubernetes, and CI/CD pipelines, and with payment gateway integration (Stripe, PayPal). Leads and mentors remote engineering teams of 5-10 developers in Agile/Scrum. Microsoft Certified: Azure Developer Associate (AZ-204).

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Backend Development: PHP 8, Laravel (Laravel 12), Livewire, Node.js, Express.js, RESTful APIs, GraphQL, WebSockets, OAuth2, JWT, Webhooks, API Gateway, Third-Party API Integration

Frontend: JavaScript, TypeScript, React, Redux, Vue.js, Nuxt.js, jQuery, HTML5, CSS3

Architecture & Design: Software Architecture, System Design, Microservices, Monolith-to-Microservices Migration, Event-Driven Architecture, Domain-Driven Design (DDD), Clean Architecture, SOLID Principles, Design Patterns, Repository & Service Layer Patterns, Multi-Tenant SaaS, Distributed Systems, Scalability, High Availability

Databases & Caching: MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, DynamoDB, Redis, Memcached, Elasticsearch, Database Design, Query Optimization, Indexing, Replication, Caching Strategies

Messaging & Queues: RabbitMQ, Apache Kafka, Laravel Queues, Job Scheduling, Asynchronous Processing, Pub/Sub

Cloud & DevOps: AWS (EC2, RDS, Lambda, S3, CloudFront, IAM, Route 53, CloudWatch), Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, CI/CD, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, Jenkins, Linux (Ubuntu), Nginx, Apache, Load Balancing, Zero-Downtime Deployment, Monitoring & Logging

Payments & FinTech: Stripe, PayPal, Telebirr, QisstPay, Payment Gateway Integration, Tokenization, Webhook Reconciliation, Refunds & Disputes, PCI-Aware Design, SaaS Subscription Billing

Testing & Security: PHPUnit, Unit Testing, Feature Testing, TDD, Code Review, OWASP Top 10, Application Security, Performance Optimization, Profiling

AI Integration: LLM API Integration, Document Extraction & Classification, Workflow Automation

Tools & Methods: Git, GitHub, GitLab, Jira, Confluence, Agile, Scrum, Kanban, Sprint Planning

Leadership: Technical Leadership, Team Leadership, Mentoring, Technical Hiring & Interviews, Architecture Decision Records (ADRs), Stakeholder Management, Remote Team Management, Cross-Functional Collaboration

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Backend Engineer / Technical Team Lead | BambooHR — 2025 - Present

Enterprise HR SaaS Platform | USA (Remote)

- Architect and develop scalable backend services for an enterprise HR SaaS platform serving thousands of business customers, within a distributed systems environment.
- Lead a cross-functional product engineering squad as Technical Team Lead, driving system design reviews, architecture decisions, and feature delivery in Agile/Scrum.
- Design and implement RESTful APIs for core HR modules (employee records, time tracking, benefits, reporting) with consistent versioning, pagination, authentication, and error handling.
- Decompose legacy monolithic components into well-bounded microservices, improving deployment independence and reducing cross-team change conflicts.
- Optimize high-traffic endpoints through SQL query tuning, Redis caching, and asynchronous job processing, cutting p95 response times by about 40% on key workflows.
- Design event-driven integrations between internal services using message queues and publish/subscribe patterns, improving resilience and decoupling.
- Contribute to multi-tenant system design for data isolation, background processing, and reporting pipelines handling large volumes of HR data.
- Build and maintain CI/CD pipelines in GitHub Actions with automated testing, static analysis, and Docker builds; support Kubernetes orchestration and multiple safe production deployments per day.
- Deploy and operate services on AWS (EC2, RDS, S3, Lambda, CloudWatch, IAM); apply OWASP security best practices and harden authentication and authorization flows.
- Author coding guidelines, code review checklists, and architecture decision records adopted by multiple squads; mentor engineers, several of whom were promoted within the year.
- Conduct system design and coding interviews for backend hiring and help refine the engineering interview process.

Senior PHP Laravel Developer / Technical Team Lead | **Software Consultancy & Product Engineering** **2017 - 2025**

International clients in USA, UK, Europe, and Gulf region | Islamabad, Pakistan / Remote

- Delivered 30+ production web applications using PHP, Laravel, Node.js, React, and Vue.js for international clients across SaaS, FinTech, e-commerce, and construction; progressed from Software Engineer to Senior Laravel Developer and Technical Team Lead.
- Architected scalable Laravel backends using clean architecture, DDD, SOLID principles, and repository/service patterns to keep large codebases maintainable as teams grew.
- Integrated Stripe, PayPal, Telebirr, and QisstPay payment gateways with tokenization, webhook handling, and automated reconciliation for a FinTech payments layer processing thousands of daily transactions.
- Led the migration of a high-traffic monolithic Laravel application to microservices, improving deployability, fault isolation, and team autonomy.
- Developed REST APIs and GraphQL endpoints for web and mobile apps with OAuth2/JWT authentication and role-based access control (RBAC).
- Built event-driven workflows with Laravel Queues, Redis, and RabbitMQ for notifications, email, SMS, invoicing, and long-running jobs.
- Optimized MySQL and PostgreSQL databases through indexing, query refactoring, and read/write separation, reducing slow-query volume by over 70% on key systems; added Redis object, query, and full-page caching.
- Deployed and managed workloads on AWS (EC2, RDS, S3, CloudFront, Route 53, IAM) and Azure, including Linux server administration, Nginx, SSL, and firewall hardening.
- Set up CI/CD pipelines with GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, and Jenkins for automated tests, code style checks, and zero-downtime deployments; wrote PHPUnit unit and feature tests and promoted TDD.
- Led and mentored teams of 5-10 developers, running sprint planning, backlog grooming, estimation, and retrospectives in Jira and Confluence; served as primary technical contact for international clients.

KEY PROJECTS

Enterprise SaaS Platform | Multi-Tenant Business Management Suite

Tech Stack: *Laravel (PHP 8), Microservices, REST, GraphQL, React, MySQL, Redis, RabbitMQ, Docker, AWS, GitHub Actions*

- Lead architect: designed tenant isolation, Stripe subscription billing, role-based access, and reporting pipelines. Scaled to thousands of tenant organizations with 99.9%+ uptime and responsive dashboards under 10x data growth.

Prime Estimate | Construction Estimation Platform

Tech Stack: *Laravel, Vue.js, Nuxt.js, PostgreSQL, Redis, PDF Generation, AWS, Nginx*

- Technical lead: designed the estimation engine, versioned pricing catalogs, and quote-to-project workflow. Reduced estimate preparation from days to hours; adopted as the firm's system of record for all bids.

FinTech Payment Platform | Multi-Gateway Payments & Reconciliation

Tech Stack: *Laravel, Stripe, PayPal, Telebirr, QisstPay, RabbitMQ, Redis, MySQL, Event-Driven Architecture*

- Architect: built a unified payments API with gateway abstraction, idempotent webhook processing, refund/dispute flows, and audit logging. Achieved reconciliation accuracy above 99% with zero card data stored in scope.

ERP Integration Platform | Middleware for Enterprise Systems

Tech Stack: *Laravel, Node.js, RabbitMQ, Apache Kafka, Elasticsearch, REST, Webhooks*

- Solution architect: designed the connector framework, mapping engine, retry/dead-letter handling, and monitoring. Enabled near-real-time sync across ERP, CRM, and accounting systems; new connectors ship in days instead of weeks.

AI Automation Platform | Workflow Automation with LLM APIs

Tech Stack: *Laravel, Node.js, LLM APIs, Queues, React, Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD*

- Technical lead: designed document extraction and classification pipelines with human-in-the-loop review and cost/rate-limit controls. Cut average handling time by 60%+ and expanded to multiple departments.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BS-IT)

CERTIFICATIONS

Microsoft Certified: Azure Developer Associate (AZ-204) | Verify: learn.microsoft.com/users/muhammadshafiq-3365/transcript

Languages: English (Professional Working Proficiency) | Urdu (Native)