

POLA MINA LOTFY

Backend Engineer

PHP | Laravel | REST APIs | MySQL | Docker

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Location: Cairo, Egypt

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Backend Engineer with 2+ years of experience building and scaling web applications and RESTful APIs using PHP and Laravel. Proficient in MySQL database design and optimization, object-oriented programming, MVC architecture, and third-party and payment gateway integrations. Skilled at writing clean, testable, maintainable code following SOLID principles and collaborating in Agile teams across the full development lifecycle to deliver secure, high-performance backend systems.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Languages & Frameworks:** PHP, Laravel, SQL, RESTful API design, MVC architecture, Object-Oriented Programming (OOP), SOLID principles, design patterns
- Databases & Caching:** MySQL, Eloquent ORM, database design & normalization, query optimization, indexing, Redis
- Backend & APIs:** REST API development, authentication & authorization, JWT, OAuth 2.0, role-based access control (RBAC), queues & background jobs, webhooks, third-party & payment gateway integrations
- Testing & Quality:** PHPUnit, unit & integration testing, code review, debugging, test-driven development (TDD)
- DevOps & Tools:** Git, GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket, Docker, CI/CD, Linux, Nginx, Composer, Postman
- Practices:** Agile / Scrum, microservices concepts, version control workflows, technical documentation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Aug 2024 – Jul 2025

Backend Engineer, Reflex

- Developed and maintained RESTful APIs and backend services in PHP/Laravel, supporting core product features and third-party client integrations.
- Designed and optimized MySQL database schemas, queries, and migrations using Eloquent ORM to improve data integrity and query performance.
- Integrated third-party services and payment gateways, implementing secure authentication, webhook and callback handling, and robust error handling.
- Implemented queues and background jobs to offload heavy processing, improving API response times and overall system throughput.
- Collaborated within an Agile team, participating in code reviews, enforcing coding standards, and applying SOLID principles for maintainable, testable code.
- Diagnosed and resolved production incidents, improving application stability, performance, and reliability.

Jul 2023 – Aug 2024

Backend Engineer, Kickstart Interactive

- Built and maintained scalable web applications and RESTful APIs with PHP/Laravel across multiple client projects.
- Implemented authentication, authorization, and role-based access control (RBAC), along with core business logic and application modules.
- Developed and consumed third-party REST APIs and integrations, ensuring reliable data exchange and comprehensive error handling.
- Wrote clean, reusable, and testable code, contributing to improved development workflows, Git branching practices, and deployment processes.
- Partnered with cross-functional teams to translate business requirements into technical solutions delivered on schedule.

EDUCATION

2018 – 2024

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science (B+, Very Good)

Cairo Higher Institute for Computer Science