Miljan Knežević

Senior Full-Stack Engineer — PHP/Laravel & Node.js

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PROFILE

Full-stack engineer with 9+ years building SaaS products and web platforms in PHP/Laravel and Node.js, backed by Vue.js and React on the frontend. Has worked on products used by millions of users worldwide, in teams of 15+ and as a sole developer. Strongest at performance tuning, reviving and modernising legacy codebases, API design and third-party integrations. Mentors other developers.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Cut a production landing page's load time from **28+ seconds to under 1 second** by refactoring its backend.
- Identified hidden Google Cloud Platform costs for a client, cutting their cloud spend by **~30%**.
- Delivered a SaaS MVP from scratch in **3 months**, from architecture to production launch.
- Brought two abandoned legacy projects back to active development by upgrading dependencies and resolving breaking changes.
- Replaced an abandoned UI package in a live production app with no downtime.
- Built and maintained features for global products with millions of users.

SKILLS

- **Backend:** PHP, Laravel, Symfony, Node.js, Express, REST APIs, GraphQL, WebSockets, OOP
- **Databases & ORMs:** MySQL, PostgreSQL, Eloquent, Doctrine, Prisma
- **Frontend:** JavaScript, TypeScript, Vue.js (Vue 3), React, HTML, CSS, Tailwind, PWA
- **Testing:** PHPUnit, Jest
- **DevOps & cloud:** Docker, Linux (Ubuntu), Git, GitLab CI/CD, Google Cloud Platform, Firebase
- **Integrations & API tooling:** Twilio, OpenAPI, Postman

EXPERIENCE

Full-Stack Software Engineer — ElanWave · Novi Sad · Dec 2025 – Present

Software outsourcing company delivering development, QA, design and project management for clients.

- Refactored the backend of a client landing page, reducing load time from 28+ s to under 1 s.
- Revived two legacy projects by upgrading outdated packages and resolving breaking changes.
- Replaced components from an abandoned package in a production app, keeping it stable with no downtime.
- Deliver backend and frontend features end to end with designers, QA, product owners and project managers.

Software Engineer — Vega IT · Novi Sad · Jan 2022 – Dec 2025

- Full-stack development in PHP/Laravel, Node.js, Vue.js and React on SaaS products for international clients.
- Worked both in large teams (15+ engineers) and as sole developer on a project; mentored other developers.

Software Engineer — JAGGAER · Belgrade · Mar 2020 – Dec 2021

- Full-stack development on a global e-procurement platform, in the team owning the contacts and contracts management modules.

Earlier roles — PHP Web Developer · 2017 – 2020

- TMS, Belgrade (May 2019 – Feb 2020) · ITAF.eu, Belgrade (Mar 2018 – Apr 2019) · Iterro Inc, Subotica (Mar 2017 – Feb 2018)

SELECTED PROJECTS

AI mental-health support SaaS · Healthcare / AI · Node.js, Express, PostgreSQL, Prisma, GraphQL, React, WebSockets, Twilio, Docker, GCP, Firebase

- Built a WebSockets service powering a real-time React webchat.
- Developed the conversation flow between users and an AI assistant across SMS (Twilio) and webchat.
- Restructured database tables and relations, adding indexes and caching to speed up queries.
- Upgraded deprecated dependencies and refactored the codebase through breaking changes.

Business-potential analytics SaaS · IT services · Laravel, MySQL, Vue.js, REST API

- Built the MVP from scratch in 3 months, contributing to architecture and project setup; launched to production.
- Developed secure, scalable backend services and integrations with external systems.
- Implemented analytics and reporting features.
- Created reusable Vue.js components that sped up frontend development.

Food & beverage retail PWA · Retail · Laravel, React, PWA, REST API, OpenAPI, Docker

- Designed REST API endpoints, request/response contracts and supporting services.
- Integrated third-party APIs, including the Quikserve ordering platform.
- Wrote and maintained OpenAPI documentation for all endpoints.

Digital publication platform · Media · Laravel, MySQL, Vue.js, Docker

- Built taxonomy-driven metadata that third-party systems use to control content access levels.
- Shipped UI improvements aimed at engagement and conversion.
- Kept dependencies current through regular Composer updates, reducing technical debt.
- Provided production support and resolved time-critical bugs.

LANGUAGES

Serbian — native · English — C1 (professional working proficiency)