

Marc Toral • Senior Backend Engineer (PHP/Laravel)

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Summary

Senior backend engineer with 15+ years building data-intensive PHP/Laravel apps and APIs with queue-heavy pipelines, third-party API integrations, and database performance at scale. Contributed to high-traffic media platforms (peak ~5M monthly readers) and real-time data pipelines processing ~100 events/second. Domain-driven and test-disciplined, comfortable owning infrastructure end to end.

Skills

Languages: PHP, SQL, JS/TypeScript

Frameworks & Tooling: Laravel, Laravel Horizon, PHPUnit/Pest, PHPStan, Livewire, Inertia, Vue 3, TailwindCSS

Data & Infrastructure: MySQL, PostgreSQL, Redis, Elasticsearch, Docker, Nginx, AWS, Laravel Forge, Grafana

Practices: TDD, Domain-Driven Design, REST APIs, Event-driven architecture, queue design, CI/CD (GitLab), Observability, Infrastructure as Code (Ansible), WebSockets, OAuth/SSO/JWT

AI Dev Tools: Claude Code, Kimi Code, multi-agent orchestration, custom agent skills, persistent agent memory, agent-driven CI/CD, prompt/context engineering

AI & Modern Tooling

I build and continuously refine a *model-agnostic agentic harness*: custom skills, persistent agent memory, and agent-driven CI/CD that lets me operate across the entire software lifecycle (product, architecture, implementation, testing, CI/CD, infrastructure, monitoring) in depth as a single engineer. I track the fast-moving tooling landscape, currently exploring skill and harness evals.

Experience

Senior Fullstack Engineer — Finstack • Jun 2024 – Dec 2025

High-volume data-synchronisation and financial consolidation application (PHP/Laravel api backend powering a Vue 3 SPA frontend).

- Set up api telemetry/observability in production: extending Telescope to store requests and queries metrics asynchronously
- Redesigned the background-job queue architecture: splitting queues by priority and domain and tuning worker concurrency, cutting frequent write-contention deadlocks and costly full-data refreshes
- Traced N+1 queries and performance bottlenecks to over-indexed core tables and cut load time 30–50% on affected endpoints through targeted raw-query optimisation
- Built internal analytics dashboards over product usage data: onboarding funnel milestones and per-organisation login activity to help sales and marketing read activation and retention metrics
- Improved OAuth authentication flows and applied security hardening practices across the platform
- Progressively introduced refactors toward clear domain separation and explicit boundaries to improve testability and reduce coupling

Also: Vue 3 / TypeScript SPA work (Pinia, TanStack Query).

Senior Software Engineer — The Next Web (TNW) • Oct 2015 – Apr 2024

Data-intensive Laravel services for a major European tech-media brand and its flagship conference.

- Developed real-time data pipelines for a startup-intelligence aggregator (~100K company profiles enriched from a ~100 posts/second funding-news stream) using Redis queues, dedicated workers, and Elasticsearch
- Built and maintained services powering TNW's media site and its flagship conference (8–10K attendees/day): ticketing, scheduling, attendee dashboard, and content delivery
- Bridged the editorial backend of the high-traffic news platform (peak ~5M monthly visitors) to a headless CraftCMS front end via a queue-driven Articles API (Cloudflare, heavy third-party integration)
- Co-owned several production systems after acquisition by the [Financial Times](#) in 2019, including an OAuth SSO API (~30K users managing auth to web products and the conference mobile app), ran second-stage technical interviews

PHP Developer & Freelancer • 2007 – 2015

WordPress development, scientific-web tooling (Scimago Lab), and agency work.

Side Projects

- **Self-hosted Homelab:** Dockerized services (DNS, GitLab, backups, monitoring, kanban boards) on a Raspberry Pi
- **Brokerage-aggregation platform** (Laravel, Inertia + Vue 3): consolidates multi-broker financial data: daily data sync of transactions, positions. Dividend accounting and position rebalancing over multiple accounts in one place

Education

BSc Computer Engineering, Universidad de Almería, 2011–2015. Specialisation in Information Systems, final year project on machine learning applied to real estate price prediction.

Languages: English (professional C1) • Spanish (native) • Dutch (basic)