

Michael VanDerwerker

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Profile

Senior full-stack software engineer with over 11 years of experience designing, developing, and maintaining SaaS applications, backend systems, REST APIs, and data-driven web applications. I have developed new platforms from the ground up, modernized legacy applications, optimized database performance, and integrated third-party services. I have experience designing workflows, supporting production applications, and improving systems as their usage and technical requirements grow. I've also led developers, helped make architectural decisions, and worked directly with stakeholders to turn business requirements into software that can be expanded and maintained with ease.

Highlights

- PHP & Laravel Backend Development
- MySQL Schema Design & Query Optimization
- REST API Design & Third-Party Integrations
- Redis Caching & Performance Optimization
- AWS SQS & Asynchronous Processing
- Authentication, Authorization & API Security
- Docker & Containerized Development
- Automated Testing & CI/CD Pipelines

Work Experience

Mandina's Inspection Services

2021 - 2026

Senior Full Stack Engineer

- Designed and built a dashboard that helps companies manage employee certifications, training, and compliance.
- Developed REST APIs that allow third-party companies to integrate with and white-label the platform.
- Worked with stakeholders to plan, build, and improve features while maintaining a large Laravel application.
- Improved database performance and application reliability by optimizing queries and refactoring existing code.

BuyItLive

2019 - 2021

Full Stack Software Engineer

- Built integrations between eCommerce platforms, payment providers, and social media APIs to help small businesses increase online sales.
- Led development of a new shopping cart and inventory system that simplified order management.
- Developed reporting tools that gave businesses better insight into customer purchasing habits.
- Worked across the full stack to deliver new features, fix production issues, and improve overall application performance.

Delta Five Systems

2015 - 2019

Senior Lead Software Engineer

- Built backend services that allowed thousands of remote devices to sync data and report their status in real time.
- Designed MySQL schemas and indexing strategies for millions of images, improving data retrieval for large-scale image analysis and processing workflows.
- Made architectural decisions, reviewed code, established development practices, and mentored other developers.
- Investigated production issues, reviewed code, and helped maintain the day to day reliability of distributed systems.

Michael VanDerwerker LLC

2015 - Present

Founder / Full Stack Developer

- Architected and developed backend applications and REST APIs using PHP, Laravel, MySQL, Redis, and AWS.
- Designed and maintained versioned REST APIs with OpenAPI specifications, OAuth2, JWT, Sanctum, rate limiting, and role-based access controls.
- Set up authentication, deployment pipelines, and cloud infrastructure to support secure, reliable production applications.
- Designed database schemas, optimized queries, and implemented Redis caching to improve application performance.

Technical Skills

PHP 8 - Laravel - Object-Oriented PHP - MySQL - SQL - Database Design - Query Optimization - Indexing - RESTful API Design
API Versioning - OpenAPI - Third-Party API Integrations - Redis - AWS SQS - Laravel Queues - Asynchronous Processing
Background Jobs - OAuth2 - JWT - Laravel Sanctum - Role-Based Access Control - Rate Limiting - API Security - PHPUnit - Unit Testing
Integration Testing - Docker - AWS - GitHub Actions - CI/CD Pipelines - Git - Linux - Nginx - Apache - Health Checks
Performance Optimization - Production Debugging - Root-Cause Analysis - JavaScript - Vue.js - TypeScript - PostgreSQL

Education

Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering, University of Virginia College at Wise, 2015

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