CV: Rick Morice

PHP/Laravel specialist · Contractor with 20+ years' experience

Profile

Information

- Sheffield, UK
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About me

I am a backend-first full-stack engineer and contractor with 20+ years in PHP and over a decade specialising in Laravel and other frameworks. I stabilise legacy systems and design clean, modular platforms that scale — combining hands-on coding with modern practices, DevOps, and strong communication.

I continually develop my skills, bringing forward new approaches such as AI and automation into real-world workflows, ensuring they're GDPR-safe, auditable, and genuinely useful to the business. Comfortable leading teams, setting standards, and delivering reliable outcomes under pressure.

Core Skills

- Languages & Frameworks: PHP, Laravel, Symfony, CakePHP, Blade, Vue.js, JavaScript/TypeScript
- APIs & Data: REST, JSON:API, GraphQL, RAG pipelines, schema design, performance tuning
- AI & Automation: LLMs (Azure OpenAI, OpenAI API), agentic workflows, GDPR-safe pipelines, redaction, audit logging
- Databases: MySQL 8, PostgreSQL, SQL Server, MongoDB; scaling, replication, recovery
- Testing & Quality: PHPUnit, Pest, TDD/BDD, static analysis, accessibility (WAI/WCAG 2.x AA/AAA), documentation
- DevOps & Cloud: CI/CD (GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, Azure Pipelines), Terraform, Docker, Vagrant, Linux (preferred), Windows Server, Apache, NGINX, Azure, AWS
- Collaboration & Leadership: Agile (Scrum, Kanban), JIRA, mentoring, stakeholder communication, modernisation of legacy systems

Selected Experience

Most of my work over the last 10 years has been through Floor9Design Ltd. I am the director/owner; and have worked full-stack contract work across SMEs to enterprise.

Superior Wellness

Lead developer / Technical lead (2024—present)

- Stabilised a brittle legacy all-in-one platform (CRM, warehouse, purchasing, booking) while guiding the roadmap for a new modular Unity ecosystem.
- Kept critical operations safe with defensive migrations, security updates, and targeted bug-fixes.
- Introduced modern Laravel practices (Form Requests, DTOs, Spatie Data) and a consistent testing culture.
- Established JIRA workflows, Git standards, and CI/CD for predictable releases.
- Led design of the Unity platform: Laravel 12 + Filament 4, JSON:API, Azure/Terraform, and AI-enabled aftersales.

Outcome

Stabilised BAU on the legacy platform; accelerated delivery pace; positioned the business for scalable growth.

Kumon / LDA

Lead developer (2023, 4-month contract extended)

- Large-scale rebuild delivering a new Laravel/MySQL platform with multilingual support, appointment scheduling, and a custom CMS.
- Owned core architecture and safe cut-over with complex data import.
- Built booking with FullCalendar and Tempus Dominus; admin UI with Bootstrap/Font Awesome; reporting via DataTables.
- CI/CD on Azure for frequent, safe releases.

Outcome

Successful replacement of legacy systems with a scalable, well-documented platform.

Specialist Motor Finance

Senior contractor (2023, 3-month contract extended)

- Secured and stabilised an ageing PHP/jQuery platform to extend safe life pre-sunset.
- Executed critical security and version upgrades; fixed long-running defects.
- Introduced CI workflows, version control discipline, and JIRA processes.

Outcome

Reduced release risk; platform remained viable while replacement was planned.

Temper (NL/UK)

Lead cover (2022–23, 3 months)

- Microservices-driven Laravel stack (matching, reporting, multi-site, multilingual).
- Delivered features across services, queues, and high-performance reporting.
- Coached juniors; enforced best practices; ensured continuity through UK launch.

Outcome

Successful market launch and clean handover to permanent lead.

Made For Trade

Senior contractor (2022, 6-month contract extended)

- Greenfield quoting platform → extended to microservices with JSON:API and a 3D front-end.
- Built customer management, reporting, APIs; 3D UI with Babylon.js.
- Worked across MySQL and SQL Server; CI (Travis), documentation and training.

Outcome

Modern, documented platform handed over smoothly to in-house team.

Crowdfunder

Senior contractor (2021, 6 months extended)

- Designed lightweight Symfony-based microservice APIs; strong unit testing in Docker.
- Delivered JSON:API-compliant services; composer-distributed clients for third parties.

Outcome

APIs integrated across the company (incl. authentication), enabling faster delivery.

Intrica

Senior engineer (2019–20, 3 months - extended to 1 year)

- Next-gen REST APIs on Laravel 7; Vault, multi-DB patterns, JSON:API compliance.
- Architecture, virtualisation, data modelling, and secure practices (banking sector).

Outcome

High-standards platform meeting strict security/accountability needs.

DP Publicity

Senior engineer (2018–19, 3 months - extended to 1 year)

- Rebuilt train ticketing system: MySQL redesign, REST API, Vue front-end integration, extensive tests.

Outcome

Clean handover-ready codebase with PSR standards and strong docs.

Earlier Experience (highlights)

- Age Partnership (2017–18): modernised legacy PHP; introduced testing, documentation, and standards; mentored developers.
- SolderStar (2016–17): full redesign from demo to production; Laravel, REST API, Ubuntu hosting; long extension (15 months); used by major clients.
- ADI-UK (2016): Laravel/MSSQL/Mongo; PSR-2, PHPUnit, PHPDocumentor; improved Agile/Scrum process.
- Convergys (2015–16): security/compliance uplift; PHP upgrades, TLS 1.2 rollout; consistent server setup across >100 servers.
- Diva Creative (2015): WordPress dev + custom plugins; bespoke DB-driven game; introduced better workflows and standards.
- University of Nottingham (2014): Laravel & Zend work; RESTful, PSR-2 docs, PHPUnit; Vagrant dev env; Git and Bamboo pipelines.
- Element Enterprises (2014): CakePHP metered-access platform over multi-million-row dataset.
- Nicholas Associates (2013–14): lead on PHP/SQL Server "Skills Matrix"; framework refactors; third-line support.
- Kings Foundation (2012–13): CakePHP employee-contracting app; MyDBR reporting; Moodle SSO.
- LINE Communications (2010–12): lead developer across frameworks (Moodle/WordPress/Custom); broad Linux/server work.
- Peter Howarth Design (2010): management-team technical lead; modernised stack and workflows.
- MarkcoMedia (2009–10): OO PHP/MySQL; QA process rebuild; server maintenance.

Open Source

- floor9design/json-api-formatter
    - build/parse JSON:API payloads.
    - https://github.com/floor9design-ltd/json-api-formatter
- floor9design/character-humaniser
    - make ambiguous strings readable (tokens, codes, passwords).
    - https://github.com/floor9design-ltd/character-humaniser

Education

- BEng Electronic Engineering (Semiconductor Devices) — University of Sheffield

Certifications & Other

- UK Driving Licence (with vehicle)

- Counterbalance Forklift (CB) licence

Interests

- Paintball (team: Universal Exports; General at North vs South 2023 & 2024, winners both years)
- Video production (Adobe Premiere Pro)
- Shotokan Karate (First Dan); Japanese Jujitsu (First Dan); coaching self-defence at the University of Sheffield
- Cycling, wakeboarding, snowboarding
- Music (guitar, drums)