

**My CV**

*James Sessford*

2024

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# About me

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I am a Scottish web application developer, working primarily in PHP and Javascript, based in the North East of England.

Outside of work I enjoy live music, films, reading and playing guitar.

At work, I specialise in upgrading legacy PHP applications into modern solutions using the Laravel framework.

Over the twenty year span of my career in web development, I have worked in the Publishing, Automotive & Home Insurance sectors building brochure websites, CRMs, CMSs and full web applications.

I also spend some of my spare time on Open Source projects. I've committed work to popular Laravel packages, Filament and it's surrounding ecosystem and several solo efforts, including tailwindcss-ripple which has had over 100 thousand downloads and 65 stars on GitHub since it's first release.

I'm very comfortable working on my own and as part of a team to achieve the goals of a project.

I'm very comfortable working with junior developers and pairing to help them discover the answers to the problems they are working on.

# Work

For the past four years I have worked for Preferred Management Solutions, starting as a developer and advancing to "Axis Architect" (Head of Development).

My non technical duties have evolved with the ever changing landscape of the business but my technical duties consisted of:

## **PHP development**

Taking ideas from management/staff and turning them into solutions in our custom built CRM (PHP 5.6) or into fully fledged Laravel applications (PHP 7/8+ Laravel 5-11).

## **Javascript development**

Working with vanilla javascript and jQuery in older parts of our systems and upgrading these to Alpine & HTMX where appropriate or required.

## **MySQL administration & management**

Taking care of our MySQL databases and optimising queries to eke out performance on our production servers.

## **Linux server administration**

Provisioning and set up of servers used for production and development and maintenance of these servers.

## **Deployments**

Where applicable, zero down time deployments were used for many of our applications/services. Approached in some applications using GitHub actions, BitBucket pipelines and PHP deployer.

## **Project scoping**

Taking ideas from management/staff and turning them into clear instructions for myself and my team to follow to deliver projects on time and within scope.

## **Source control**

Working with git (GitHub and BitBucket) as source control vendors.

Working with standard git and git-flow in larger projects.

# What I'm looking for

Working in the PHP landscape is very exciting to me as I feel I've been able to see it grow over time and become the mature solution it is today. The changes that have come over the last few versions have greatly improved the core and I feel like it's only going to continue over the next several years.

If I had to choose a technology stack, both for ease of use, speed of development and enjoyment coding it would be the TALL stack:

```
Tailwind (CSS)
Alpine (Javascript)
Laravel (PHP)
Livewire (PHP+)
```

Ideally, I'm looking for a job in the PHP ecosystem, with a company that's currently using Laravel or looking to move to Laravel for the solutions they provide.

I'd like to join a team with an established chain of command and have a clearly defined role and structure in place for development & reporting to management.

# Projects & References

References are available on request.

Further projects that aren't public on GitHub can have access organised on request.