

ANASS EZ-ZOUAINE

Senior Lead Backend Engineer | Software Architect | AI Engineer

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Location: Meknes, Morocco (Remote-first since 2014)

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Lead Backend Engineer, Software Architect, and AI Engineer with 12+ years of experience designing, building, and scaling production-grade SaaS platforms, Shopify apps, and Laravel systems for founders, startups, agencies, and product teams across the United States, Europe, and MENA. I bridge two worlds: deep Laravel and Shopify e-commerce expertise, and modern AI engineering, including Generative AI, Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), agentic systems, vector databases, and Large Language Model (LLM) integration with Anthropic Claude, OpenAI, and the Model Context Protocol (MCP).

Hands-on technical leader specializing in multi-tenant B2B SaaS architecture, Clean Architecture, Test-Driven Development (TDD), Domain-Driven Design (DDD), SOLID principles, and high-performance backend systems with Laravel Octane, Redis, and Horizon. Proven track record leading distributed engineering teams, mentoring senior developers, defining engineering standards, and translating business goals into clean technical roadmaps and shippable MVPs.

Open to: Senior Lead Engineer, Staff Engineer, Tech Lead, Software Architect, AI Engineer, Fractional CTO, Technical Co-Founder, MVP Build, AI Integration Sprint.

CORE TECHNICAL SKILLS

Backend and Languages: PHP, Laravel, Filament, Laravel Octane, Horizon, Livewire, Symfony, Node.js, Express.js, Python, TypeScript, JavaScript

AI Engineering: Generative AI, Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), Agentic AI, AI Agents, LLM Integration, Anthropic Claude, Claude API, Claude Code, Model Context Protocol (MCP), MCP Servers, Tool Use, Function Calling, OpenAI GPT, Prism PHP, Prompt Engineering, Vector Embeddings, Semantic Search, AI-Powered SaaS, AI Code Review, AI Workflows, AI Automation

Frontend: Vue.js, React, Inertia.js, Nuxt.js, Remix, Tailwind CSS, HTML5, CSS3, shadcn/ui, Vite

Databases and Caching: PostgreSQL, pgvector, MySQL, Redis, MongoDB, Elasticsearch, Database Design, Query Optimization, Indexing

Shopify Ecosystem: Shopify Plus, Shopify App Development, Shopify Admin GraphQL API, REST Admin API, App Bridge, Polaris, Webhooks, Protected Customer Data Scopes, Shopify Functions, Subscription Apps, Shopify Billing API, DTC E-commerce, Catalog API, inferredFields

Cloud and DevOps: Google Cloud Platform (GCP), AWS, Docker, Laravel Forge, Coolify, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI/CD, Infrastructure as Code, Linux, Nginx, Zero-Downtime Deployments, Self-Hosted Infrastructure, Monitoring, Observability

APIs and Integrations: RESTful APIs, GraphQL, gRPC, OAuth 2.0, JWT, Webhooks, Stripe, Third-party API Integrations

Architecture and Methodologies: Clean Architecture, Domain-Driven Design (DDD), SOLID, Test-Driven Development (TDD), Microservices, Event-Driven Architecture, Multi-Tenant SaaS, B2B SaaS, Subscription Logic, Billing Integrations, Agile, Scrum, Kanban

Testing and Quality: PHPUnit, Pest PHP, Jest, Cypress, Code Review, Pair Programming, Static Analysis, PHPStan, Larastan

Tools and Collaboration: Git, GitHub, GitLab, Jira, Linear, Notion, Figma, Postman, Slack, Async Communication

Leadership: Engineering Leadership, Team Management, Technical Mentorship, Code Review Culture, Engineering Hiring, Onboarding, Architecture Audits, Technical Roadmapping, Stakeholder Communication

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lead Backend Engineer

Highfive Vet | Remote, United States | January 2025 - Present

- Lead the backend engineering team for a vertical B2B SaaS platform serving the veterinary industry, owning major initiatives end-to-end from scoping and architecture through delivery and production.
- Drive technical direction, partner integrations, and platform reliability while splitting time between hands-on engineering, code review, and engineering management.
- Define engineering standards across testing (TDD with Pest), system design, API contracts, and deployment workflows; raise the team's quality bar through review and mentorship.
- Architect and ship scalable Laravel features backed by PostgreSQL, Redis, and queue workers (Horizon); optimize hot paths with caching and query tuning.
- Own deployment pipeline on Laravel Forge with GitHub Actions CI/CD: automated testing, zero-downtime deployments, and environment-based release workflows.
- Stack: Laravel, PHP, PostgreSQL, Redis, Horizon, Filament, Vue.js, Inertia.js, Docker, GitHub Actions, Laravel Forge, CI/CD.

Co-Founder and Technical Lead

XCO Agency LLC | Remote, United States | April 2024 - Present

- Co-founded a Shopify Plus Partner agency serving DTC brands with custom Shopify apps, theme engineering, and headless commerce solutions.
- Architecting Agent Commerce Suite, a Shopify app that helps merchants optimize products for AI agent-driven commerce, with three modules: Agent SEO Optimizer, Agentic Analytics, and UPC/GTIN Compliance Manager. Differentiator: leveraging Shopify Catalog API inferredFields to surface auto-generated product fields.
- Shipping a Shopify subscription app with full billing logic, subscription management, dunning, and merchant-facing analytics; completed competitive market research across 15+ competitors and a 12-week MVP plan across 9 development phases.
- Owning end-to-end product engineering: app architecture, GraphQL Admin API integrations, webhooks, App Bridge embedded admin UI, Shopify billing, and protected customer data scope approvals.
- Stack: Laravel, Remix, React, Polaris, Shopify GraphQL API, REST API, App Bridge, Webhooks, Docker, Coolify.

Software Consultant and Backend Architect

Independent Freelance | Remote, Europe and North America | March 2022 - Present

- Independent software consultant and backend architect helping high-growth SaaS companies, agencies, and product teams across Europe and North America design, build, and scale digital products end-to-end.
- SaaS Architecture: Design multi-tenant B2B SaaS platforms from the ground up, including subscription logic, role-based access control, billing integrations (Stripe, Paddle), and scalable service layers built for long-term growth.
- Backend Engineering: Architect REST and GraphQL APIs, microservices, relational and NoSQL databases, authentication flows (OAuth 2.0, JWT), and third-party integrations.
- AI Engineering: Integrate Anthropic Claude, OpenAI, and the Model Context Protocol (MCP) into Laravel products via Prism PHP; ship RAG pipelines on PostgreSQL and pgvector and agentic workflows with tool use.
- Shopify Development: Build custom Shopify apps and backend solutions, including public and private apps, webhook pipelines, Shopify API integrations, and e-commerce automation.
- DevOps: Design and automate CI/CD pipelines, containerized deployments (Docker, Coolify, Laravel Forge), cloud environments (GCP, AWS), monitoring, and Infrastructure-as-Code strategies.
- Technical Advisory: Conduct architecture audits, code reviews, and technical roadmap sessions; provide strategic guidance on tech stack decisions, system design trade-offs, and engineering best practices.

Co-Founder

Tekency Agency | Meknes, Morocco | March 2019 - December 2025

- Co-founded a Moroccan technology agency delivering custom web applications, SaaS products, and Shopify solutions for SMB and enterprise clients.
- Set engineering direction, hired and onboarded developers, and established the agency's delivery and quality standards.

Lead Web Developer (Laravel, Vue.js, Shopify)

LE VENTURES, LLC | Remote, Los Angeles, USA | February 2019 - December 2024

- Led and mentored a team of developers, setting standards, best practices, and review culture to ensure consistently high code quality.
- Designed technical architecture for SaaS and Shopify products aligned with business goals and stakeholder requirements.
- Coordinated cross-functional delivery to ship features on time and within budget; ran code reviews to identify issues early and propose solutions.
- Participated in technical hiring, interviewing and assessing senior engineers, and ran onboarding and ongoing training for the team.
- Prepared technical documentation and reports for management and stakeholders, ensuring transparency across product and business teams.

Senior Web Developer (Freelance)

Upwork, Proxify, Freelancer | Remote | January 2014 - March 2022

- Refactored and maintained large Laravel codebases using Clean Architecture, TDD, and SOLID principles, materially improving maintainability and test coverage.
- Optimized Laravel application performance for page load, query performance, and throughput, including Laravel Octane integration for high-concurrency workloads.
- Built scalable web applications from scratch with Laravel and Vue.js, delivering high-performance multi-tenant SaaS products.
- Designed and shipped RESTful APIs and webhook pipelines integrating Laravel services with third-party platforms.
- Built and shipped Shopify apps using the Shopify Admin API and modern app architecture, delivering optimized merchant experiences.
- Managed CI/CD with GitLab and GitHub pipelines and deployed to GCP, AWS, and Docker-based environments with zero-downtime strategies.

Lead Web Developer (Laravel, Vue.js)

Next Media Morocco | Rabat, Morocco | January 2018 - February 2019

- Led a team of 10 engineers: task management in Jira, GitHub pull request reviews, sprint planning, and delivery oversight.
- Built and maintained backend PHP and Laravel applications and REST APIs powering content and media products.
- Built interactive, responsive frontends using the Vue.js ecosystem (Nuxt.js, Vuex, Vue-Router) for optimized user experiences.
- Managed staging and production branches with Git and ran deployments via Capistrano following Agile methodology (daily stand-ups, sprints, estimation, planning).
- Collaborated with clients and UX teams to translate requirements into clean web and mobile experiences.

Web Developer (Laravel, Vue.js)

Calyos | Fes, Morocco | October 2017 - December 2017

- Delivered Laravel and Vue.js features for client web applications under tight delivery timelines.

Web Developer

Tectice | Meknes, Morocco | January 2017 - October 2017

- Developed and maintained a professional Learning Management System (LMS) for Edicours.com using PHP, Node.js, and AngularJS.
- Built a content-creation SaaS platform for Edigrains.com with PHP and AngularJS.
- Collaborated with a Swiss team on the MobileTic mobile project, contributing to development and ongoing maintenance.

Web Integrator and Developer

MEGALOGI | Rabat, Morocco | October 2015 - July 2016

- Developed Dolibarr ERP/CRM modules for machine, production, and inventory management; built a Laravel turnover-management application; built WordPress sites for clients.

Web and Mobile Application Developer

Company of New Technology (CNT) | Meknes, Morocco | June 2015 - July 2015

- Built a REST API and Android mobile application for VotreGuide.ma using Java, PHP, Laravel, and the Android SDK.

Mobile Application Developer

Segma IT | Rabat, Morocco | April 2014 - May 2014

- Developed an Android mobile application for school management using Java, the Android SDK, and a PHP web service backend.

EDUCATION

Licence Professionnelle, Computer Science Applied to Business Management (MIAGE)

Hassan II University, Faculte des Sciences Juridiques, Economiques et Sociales (FSJES), Mohammedia, Morocco
2014 - 2015

DUT, IT Applications Administrator

Moulay Ismail University, Ecole Supérieure de Technologie, Meknes, Morocco
2012 - 2014

CERTIFICATIONS

- Arc Certified Remote Developer

LANGUAGES

Arabic: Native

English: Professional Working Proficiency

French: Basic

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Remote-first since 2014. Async-friendly, timezone-flexible, fluent collaborating with US, EU, and MENA teams.
- Active in the Laravel and AI engineering communities; share practical learnings on Laravel, Vue.js, AI agents, RAG, MCP, and modern developer tooling.
- Continuous learner. Track and adopt emerging AI engineering practices, attend hackathons and technical conferences, and contribute to internal R&D on AI-augmented developer workflows.