

Zaheer Uddin

Lead Backend Developer · Laravel, AWS & AI

West Midlands, United Kingdom · +44 7312 708332 · contact@zaheer-uddin.dev
zaheer-uddin.dev · linkedin.com/in/zaheer15351 · github.com/zaheer15351 · gitlab.com/zaheer15351

PROFILE

Software engineer with over ten years building and running backend systems, primarily PHP and Laravel. Lead Backend Developer at Sociuu, an employee-advocacy SaaS platform, where I lead a team of six and own backend architecture alongside the CTO. I design and ship the platform's LLM features – OpenAI-powered content generation built into the Laravel codebase, with the prompt engineering and token accounting behind them. MSc Data Science & Analytics (Distinction). Four merged pull requests to GitHub's Spec Kit.

AI & LLM ENGINEERING

LLM Features in Production

Design and direct the OpenAI-powered features inside the Sociuu platform, working hands-on in the Laravel codebase alongside the backend team.

OpenAI API · Laravel 12 · PHP 8.4

Applied Prompt Engineering

Wrote and tuned the prompts behind those features - the part that decides whether generated copy is usable or noise.

System Prompts · Persona Design · Token Budgeting

AI-Assisted Development

Agentic coding tools daily, with the senior half of the job being review - catching hallucinations and holding output to Laravel and SOLID conventions.

Claude Code · GitHub Copilot · Cursor · MCP

Spec-Driven Development

Specs before code, so AI-assisted work stays anchored to intent rather than drifting.

GitHub Spec Kit · OpenSpec · Intent

Open Source

Four merged pull requests to [github/spec-kit](https://github.com/spec-kit), GitHub's official Spec-Driven Development toolkit (#1556, #1557, #1558, #1559).

EXPERIENCE

Lead Backend Developer, Sociuu ApS

Dec 2020 – Present

Denmark (Remote)

- Lead a team of six - three backend, two frontend and a QA engineer
- Own backend architecture with the CTO, from data model to deployment
- Design and ship the platform's LLM features (OpenAI) alongside the team
- Run AWS infrastructure and DevOps (EC2, RDS, S3, SQS, CloudFront, CodePipeline)
- Build the CI/CD pipelines that ship to production around 240 times a year, roughly 4.6 releases a week
- Maintain a backend of 451 REST endpoints covered by 865 automated test suites
- 3,198 commits to the platform since 2021, across a codebase of nine domain modules
- Upgraded the backend from Lumen 5.5 through to Laravel 12 on PHP 8.4
- Run technical sessions with enterprise customers on SSO, identity and user sync
- Set coding standards, run code reviews and mentor the team

Laravel 12 · Lumen · Angular 13 · AWS · MySQL · Redis · GitLab CI/CD · Kubernetes

Senior Software Engineer, **Ciklum Pakistan**

Feb 2017 – Dec 2020

Pakistan

- Started building the Sociuu employee-advocacy platform in 2017 as the client-side engineer, joining Sociuu directly in 2020
- Built custom Magento 1.9 solution with SAP API integration for Swedish client
- Implemented advanced features: multi-lingual support, bulk ordering, order templates
- Optimized performance achieving 2-second load times
- Managed DevOps, SSL configuration, and email server setup
- Led technical discussions with international clients

Magento 1.9 · PHP · MySQL · SOAP API · Redis · JIRA

Technical Consultant (Freelance), **Lucky Line Motors**

Jun 2018 – Aug 2019

USA (Remote)

- Developed Magento 2.2 online shop from scratch
- Implemented ODBC-based product import from legacy system
- Created advanced search with interchangeable parts lookup
- Built custom expense management system in Magento admin
- Integrated PayPal and custom discount features

Magento 2.2 · PHP · MySQL · ODBC · PayPal API

Magento Developer, **Shopistan.pk Pvt LTD**

Nov 2015 – Feb 2017

Pakistan

- Built insurance/takaful platforms (getinsurance.pk, gettakaful.pk)
- Integrated FBR API for tax calculations
- Implemented advanced search and store locator features
- Developed loyalty reward programs and custom modules

Magento 1.9 · Magento 2 · PHP · MySQL · Google Maps API

Web Developer, **Code for Pakistan Fellowship**

Jul 2015 – Nov 2015

KP IT Board / World Bank

- Automated a traffic department licence-renewal process
- Modernised a legacy government system

PHP · MySQL · JavaScript

CORE EXPERTISE

- | | |
|---|---|
| • System Architecture | • Technical Decision Making |
| • Team Leadership & Mentoring | • Backend Architecture & Data Modelling |
| • Microservices & Event-Driven Architecture | • Design Patterns & SOLID Principles |
| • API Design (REST & SOAP) | • Database Design & Performance Tuning |
| • Enterprise Integrations (SAP, CRM, SSO) | • Code Review & Engineering Standards |
| • Cloud Infrastructure & CI/CD | • Stakeholder & Customer-Facing Engineering |

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Backend: PHP (10+ yrs), Laravel & Lumen (8 yrs), REST & SOAP APIs, OOP, SOLID, design patterns, PHPUnit, Magento 1/2, Redis

Cloud & DevOps: AWS (EC2, RDS, S3, SQS, SES, CloudWatch, CodeDeploy, CodePipeline, CloudFront, IAM, Route 53), GitLab CI/CD, Linux

Frontend: Angular, TypeScript, JavaScript

Languages & Data: Python, TypeScript, Bash, Microsoft SQL Server, Apache Solr, GraphQL, WebSocket

Platform & Infrastructure: Docker, Kubernetes, Azure, Google Cloud, DigitalOcean, Heroku, Jenkins

Testing & Quality: Cypress, Selenium, Unit & Feature Testing

Machine Learning (MSc): SVM, k-NN, Naive Bayes, Decision Trees, Neural Networks, Data Mining, Weka, PHP-ML

EDUCATION

MSc Data Science & Analytics – Distinction

July 2022

University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom

Dissertation applied machine learning to email open-rate prediction on an employee-advocacy platform, comparing seven algorithms and deploying a real-time prediction API into the live PHP platform.

BSc Computer Science – CGPA 3.14 (UK 2:1 equivalent)

December 2015

University of Engineering & Technology, Peshawar, Pakistan

Final-year project: Quick Disease Early Warning System (QDEWS).

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Top 25 of 2,000+ worldwide - Microsoft Imagine Cup "Code Hunt" 2014
- Top 10 - DICE Health Innovation Exhibition 2015
- Winner, Best Solution Using Civic Data - Islamabad Civic Hackathon (Code for Pakistan / World Bank)
- 1st place - UET Peshawar Entrepreneurial Spirit Program
- Semi-finalist - Pakathon Global (MIT)

ADDITIONAL

Languages: English (IELTS 6.5), Urdu (native). Right to work: UK Skilled Worker visa, valid to June 2029. Full UK driving licence.