Reza Nobakht

CTO · Backend & Software Architect · Laravel / PHP · DevOps

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SUMMARY

Backend engineer and CTO with 8+ years building and running production systems in Laravel/PHP. Currently CTO of a cross-border payments company, leading a team of 6; previously built Stripe-powered backends remotely for a France-based startup. I led a zero-downtime upgrade of our live payment platform from Laravel 5 to 13, raised uptime from 96% to 99%, and rebuilt infrastructure, security and delivery pipelines. I work where architecture meets operations: I design the system, make the technical decisions, and stay hands-on in the code and on the servers.

EXPERIENCE

Aval Pardakht Aug 2024 – Present

Cross-border payments platform · Full-time contract · Remote

Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Jun 2025 – Present

Senior Backend Developer Aug 2024 – Jun 2025

- Lead a 6-person engineering team; own architecture, infrastructure, security and delivery.
- Raised platform **uptime from 96% to 99%** through infrastructure upgrades, monitoring and hardening.
- Upgraded the core payment platform from **Laravel 5 to Laravel 13 with zero downtime**, clearing years of technical debt.
- **Rebuilt the infrastructure from scratch** on new cloud servers: provisioning, migration and hardening of every service.
- Designed an **object-storage architecture** for documents and media (previously on the app server and a physical server): encrypted, versioned, write-only archive with off-site physical backup for regulatory compliance.
- Designed an **active-passive failover** architecture (Germany primary / Iran standby) for landing sites, blog and news so they stay online during international internet restrictions.
- Migrated database tables from **MyISAM to InnoDB** and redesigned transaction handling in schema and code to guarantee payment data consistency.
- Introduced **Redis** (cache, queues, workers) to move heavy processing off the request cycle.
- Implemented **SSO with Laravel Passport** and real-time **push notifications** with Firebase and Laravel Reverb.
- Upgraded servers from **Ubuntu 20.04 to 24.04** (incl. kernel); **Cloudflare WAF** and rate limiting stopped a 46K-request bot flood; automated DDoS detection with SMS alerts.
- Built **GitLab CI/CD** with zero-downtime atomic deploys and rollback; monitoring with **Grafana**.
- Led **Amazina**, a new product line, from zero (Oct 2025 – Mar 2026): Laravel backend and admin panel, Next.js customer panel, Docker.

SibTorsh Dec 2024 – Oct 2026

Online exam-prep (Konkur) learning platform · Full-time contract · Remote (6 months on-site, Tehran)

Senior Backend Developer (incl. 3 months as interim CTO) ~2 years

- Restructured and migrated the database to eliminate **I/O-wait bottlenecks** under load.
- Introduced a **Laravel Policies**-based authorization layer across the API.
- Standardized all API responses into one JSON contract and documented the API with **Swagger/OpenAPI**.
- Designed a custom **Leitner-box (spaced-repetition) engine** for the product's learning flow.
- Fixed and upgraded the **GitLab CI/CD** pipelines.

Collectero Oct 2022 – Jul 2024

Smart waste-management startup · Lille, France · distributed team (France + remote) · B2B & public-sector clients

Backend Developer (Remote)

- Worked remotely with a France-based team; all specs, tickets and documentation in English (Jira, Skype).
- Integrated **Stripe** payments for private-sector and government customers.
- Built RESTful Laravel APIs for the mobile app and admin dashboard; improved data retrieval speed by ~20%.
- Designed and optimized the PostgreSQL schema with indexing and normalization; cut query execution time by ~35%.
- Wrote Swagger API documentation that shortened developer onboarding by ~30%.

LiFA Jan 2022 – Mar 2024

Community platform for HR and L&D professionals

Full-Stack Developer

- Built Laravel APIs for web and mobile, designed MySQL schemas, and wrote unit and feature tests.
- Containerized the application with **Docker**; built the Vue.js 3 admin panel.

Zehn Oct 2019 – Aug 2023

Book-summary mobile app, 100K+ users

Full-Stack Developer

- Built Lumen APIs for a high-traffic mobile app; optimized the MySQL schema (~35% faster queries).
- Wrote PHPUnit tests; built the admin panel; handled server deployment and maintenance.

Earlier 2018 – 2021

Backend / full-stack Laravel roles at **HivaTec** (real-estate app REST API), **TargetDa**, **nbcard.ir** and **yuccaHQ** (registration, payment and order APIs).

SKILLS

Backend	PHP 8.3, Laravel (5 → 13), GraphQL (Lighthouse), Lumen, REST APIs, Laravel Passport (OAuth2/SSO), Laravel Reverb, Queues & Workers
Data & Storage	MySQL 8 (InnoDB, transactions), PostgreSQL, Redis, S3-compatible object storage
DevOps & Security	GitLab CI/CD, Docker, Linux/Ubuntu administration, server hardening, Cloudflare WAF/CDN, active-passive failover, Grafana, Sentry
Practices	Software architecture, technical leadership, legacy modernization, TDD (PHPUnit), Swagger/OpenAPI
Also	Stripe, Next.js, React, Vue.js 3, Flutter API design, Firebase Cloud Messaging, Jira

EDUCATION & LANGUAGES

B.Sc. Computer Software Engineering, Shiraz Azad University, 2015

Persian (native) · English (professional reading & writing, intermediate speaking)