

Evripidis Vakalis

Backend & API Integration Engineer specializing in scalable, efficient services

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Summary

Senior backend engineer with expertise in PHP (Symfony) and Python (Django), APIs and e-commerce platforms. Experienced in building and maintaining scalable services and integrations, designing reliable data flows, and mentoring engineers. Comfortable working in microservice and cloud environments with strong practical knowledge of databases and deployment tooling.

Technologies

Languages: PHP, Python, SQL, JavaScript

Frameworks: Symfony, Django, WordPress, WooCommerce, OpenCart

Databases: MySQL, MariaDB, MongoDB

Infrastructure & Tools: Docker, GKE, Git, Jira, Gearman, Jenkins, CI/CD

Other: REST & SOAP APIs, Microservices, Web scraping, Data analysis, eCommerce integrations

Experience

PHP Software Engineer - Tech Lead (Remote) @ TravelStaytion

2023 – Present

Architecture & Code Quality

- Led backend development for API integration services in a microservice environment.
- Redesigned the integration architecture, introducing a consistent, modular structure for third-party APIs.
- Established best practices using DTOs, single-responsibility functions, and standardized error handling.

Performance & Reliability

- Refactored legacy code and reduced duplication, improving maintainability and developer onboarding.
- Optimized database queries and background jobs, reducing API latency and synchronization errors.

Collaboration & Mentorship

- Collaborated in an Agile team with **Jira**, ensuring timely delivery and cross-team alignment.
- Contributed to production deployments on **GKE**, using Docker-based workflows.
- Mentored junior engineers on architecture and coding standards and performed code reviews.

Tech: PHP, Symfony, MariaDB, APIs, MySQL, MongoDB, GKE, Memcached, Gearman, Docker, Jenkins

Web Developer - eCommerce Website Administrator @ Soundstar

2016 - 2022

eCommerce & Digital Growth

- Designed and launched the company's WordPress/WooCommerce platform, integrating inventory and payments.
- Led digital transformation, tripling organic traffic and increasing sales.

Automation & Data Systems

- Built a **Django-based scraping and reporting tool** for pricing insights.
- Developed internal analytics and marketing automation using Python and KNIME.

Team & Operations

- Coordinated content, marketing, and technical teams.
- Mentored junior engineers and managed vendors and hosting providers.

Tech: WordPress, WooCommerce, Python, Django, HTML, CSS, PHP, JavaScript, KNIME, Web Scraping, Data Analysis

Web developer - PC service - IT @ Adminia

2013 - 2015

- Developed and maintained CMS sites (OpenCart, WordPress, Joomla, Drupal).
- Provided workstation support, hardware repair and remote assistance for customers.

Tech: Opencart, Wordpress, HTML, CSS, PHP, JS

Internship in the department of electronics @ Hellenic Aerospace Industry

2010

Department of Automatic Assembly

Programming and operating SMD assembly machinery.

Space and Satellites Networks and Applications Department

Participation in wireless network design and installation.

Education**MSc, Postgraduate specialization in information systems**

2020 - 2025

Hellenic Open University

Remote postgraduate programme

Thesis: Automatic legal text classification on European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) cases

BSc, Automation Technician

2004 - 2014

Technological Educational Institute of Chalkida

Artificial intelligence

2007 - 2008

Syddansk Universitet - University of Southern Denmark - Odense

Erasmus Mundus Programme

Additional Certificates

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Centre of Continuous Education and Training

Data Analyst	2018
Website and marketing operations for small tourist units	2018
Digital Marketing	2017
Marketing and Branding Mix	2017

Languages

Greek: Native

English: Fluent in speaking, reading and writing (First Certificate in English, University of Cambridge)