

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 eCommerce & Digital Growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Built a Django-based scraping and reporting tool for pricing insights. - Developed internal analytics and marketing automation using Python and KNIME. Team & Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	2016 - 2022
	Web developer - PC service - IT @ Adminia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	2013 - 2015
	Internship in the department of electronics @ Hellenic Aerospace Industry Department of Automatic Assembly Programming and operating SMD assembly machinery. Space and Satellites Networks and Applications Department Participation in wireless network design and installation.	2010

Education

MSc, Postgraduate specialization in information systems Hellenic Open University Remote postgraduate programme Thesis: Automatic legal text classification on European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) cases	2020 - 2025
BSc, Automation Technician Technological Educational Institute of Chalkida	2004 - 2014
Artificial intelligence Syddansk Universitet - University of Southern Denmark - Odense Erasmus Mundus Programme	2007 - 2008

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)