Joseph James Smyth

Senior PHP Developer

Technically minded and solutions-driven professional with extensive experience in designing and optimising MySQL databases, implementing comprehensive testing strategies using PHPUnit, and developing robust RESTful APIs. Solid background in managing full project lifecycles, driving development processes, and ensuring timely and budget-conscious project delivery. Adept at creating scalable and maintainable web applications using Symfony framework, with a strong focus on performance testing. Skilled in API design, data security, and integrating user-centered design principles with software development practices. Proven track record in leading cross-functional teams, mentoring new engineers, and fostering professional growth. Demonstrated expertise in developing complex financial algorithms and maintaining compliance with industry standards.

Areas of Expertise

- Project Lifecycle Management
- Dependency Injection & Routing
- Symfony Framework Development
- Financial Algorithm Development
- User-Centered Design Integration
- PHP Development
- Performance Testing
- Data Security/Privacy
- Customer Satisfaction
- Front-End Development

- MySQL Database Design
- Team Building & Leadership
- Technical Troubleshooting
- API Development/Integration
- Cross-Functional Coordination

Professional Experience

Pulse Sales Solutions Ltd, Belfast, Antrim Lead Software Engineer 2022 - Present

Lead project lifecycles, including planning, execution, and delivery, ensuring milestones are met efficiently within budget constraints. Drive the development process forward through close collaboration with UX designers to create intuitive and effective user interfaces. Ensure timely completion of projects by managing resources and co-ordinating team efforts. Manage cross-functional teams in the integration of user-centered design principles with software development practices. Hire, onboard, and mentor new engineers, focusing on professional growth and contribution to team objectives.

- Built scalable and maintainable web applications by applying deep knowledge of the Symfony framework.
- Enhanced application performance and user satisfaction by diagnosing and resolving complex technical issues.
- Secured external investment and launched a market-ready software product; led creation and implementation of a working
 prototype that evolved into a fully functional software solution adopted by customers.

Pulse Sales Solutions Ltd, Belfast, Antrim Senior Software Engineer

2016 - 2022

Monitored application performance metrics and conducted performance testing to validate improvements. Crafted clean, modular, and maintainable code following industry standards and best practices. Utilised PHPUnit and other testing frameworks to automate testing processes, ensuring code quality.

 Facilitated data exchange between server and client applications by designing/developing APIs using the Symfony framework. Optimised API performance and security through caching, rate limiting, and input validation.

Simply Zesty Ltd, Belfast, Antrim Software Engineer

2014 - 2016

Worked with product managers and stakeholders to understand project requirements and translate into technical solutions. Developed and maintained mortgage and loan calculators for a major UK and Ireland bank, ensuring accuracy, reliability, and compliance with financial regulations. Collaborated with banking professionals to create and implement complex financial algorithms and calculations for accurate mortgage and loan repayments and interest rates.

- Executed responsive and user-friendly interfaces, guaranteeing compatibility across various devices and browsers.
- Maintained data security and privacy by implementing encryption, authentication, and access control mechanisms in line with banking industry standards.

Seopa Ltd, Belfast, Antrim Software Engineer 2011 - 2014

Integrated with external APIs provided by insurance companies to retrieve real-time quotes and policy information. Created and maintained integrations with various insurance providers' APIs to fetch real-time quotes for car, home, and health insurance. Documented technical specifications, API endpoints, and system architecture for the quotation comparison platform.

- Ensured reliable and fault-tolerant integration with insurance provider systems by monitoring API rate limits, errors, and retries.
- Identified and mitigated potential risks/threats to the insurance quotation comparison systems by conducting security audits and vulnerability assessments.

Additional Experience

Junior Software Engineer, Acorn IT Solutions Ltd, Maghera, Derry Junior Software Engineer, Blitz Web Development Ltd, Portstewart, Derry

Education

Postgraduate Diploma in Business & Information Innovation, Ulster University, Coleraine Bachelor of Science in Business with Computing, Ulster University, Coleraine

Technical Proficiencies

MySQL, API Development, JavaScript, Node.js, Tailwind CSS, Git, PHP, Symfony Framework, Doctrine ORM, RESTful APIs, Authentication Mechanisms (OAuth2, JWT)