- https://sonin.agency/
- https://twitter.com/soninapps?lang=en
- https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/06365359
- https://www.totaljobs.com/job/php-developer/netcon-resourcing-limited-job83342456

I'd like to talk about a 3 month contract initially.

What do they do?

Mobile App Development Agency

Who is Paul Jarrett?

Former developer at RBS, MD of Sonin, coffee lover, 2 kids

Who are their main clients?

- Shell?
- Eli Lilly
- British Museum event guide that sends an email
- StudentSwipeApp (won award in 2017)

What need do they have?

Recommendations for sonin products

- student swipe
  - when registering, rather than scroll through a select list, allow to type and then auto-suggest
  - when going to the sub screen and then a category, and then using the back button on mobile OS, it takes you back to the start screen rather than the sub screen

Who was I working for?

- ComplyAvantage is a screening platform that enables the checking of names of individuals/corporates for any Adverse Media mentions or Sanction list inclusions.

Rather than having humans collect and collate profiles, it uses Machine Learning and Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) to ensure accuracy.

- The laravel platform is able to give details on whether the entity is a politically exposed individual, their date of birth and relatives and close associates
- Compliance functions in financial institutions will use the platform to bulk search names and the API will give you response in realtime
- Gone through Series A funding with Balderton and soon to anounce a Series B raise.

What did I do for them?

- Designed/Built/Maintained 5 Laravel projects (v4.x upto v5.6 LTS)
- One of the first developers working in my boss' garage, built out a sanctions screening platform used by a remittance company and their partners
- Move the the main product building out the customer-facing API and Laravel frontend as a full-stack developer
- Built and maintained the new transaction monitoring product. Begun as Laravel product which had 3 customers, but the new version was Django-based (over 30 customers globally)
  - For the latest TM product, I was dealing with Implementation for new customers and Platform Engineering on the Infrastructure side (provisioning with AWS)
  - Automated implementation with Google sheet onboarding integration where the appropriate DB resources were created (source format, rules, users)
- A data company with machine learning involvement so natrually a Python shop and so it made sense to write code that could be maintained by everyone

Why am I approaching Sonin?

- LinkedIn message was compelling. Mobile-first, convenience, HCI are topics close to my heart
  - First ever software project was a student housing platform for Uni of Westminster

- 4.5 years is a long time to stay at a place
- want to get back to building
- long commute (90 mins each way)

Tell me about a time I have …

.. led or worked in a team

- TM at CA saw me acting as liaison between backend developers and customer success, performing deployments, managing releases and executing AWS configuration changes with Terraform.

  As the product was single-tenant, this often meant a lot of multi-tasking and prioritising. Our daily standups were short updates and letting the team know if there were any blockers.

  I worked with two backend devs, lead dev and product manager to ensure communication loop was as small and efficient as possible at all times

- When developing the TM PHP app, my role evolved as a cross between lead and PM where I'd manage the sprint planning, retrospectives as well as take part in code reviews

.. had to make a difficult decision

-

.. used data to make a decision

- Upon noticing that the monitoring has a slower transactions per second rate, then looking at AWS component load metrics to ascertain if we need to increase sizes of elasticache or RDS sizes.

.. been proud of a project

- A software project to be proud of is one that lasts a long time and requires little maintenance Over 4.5 years the remittance platform grew in usage and the only large change was to dockerize it in development and production.

.. furthered my own learning

- Not being a pure backend developer on the TM project, I would block out time in my diary twice a week to review new commits to the develop branch

- I listen to Laravel podcast and Talk Python to Me. My commute saw me follow freemediumcodecamp to fill gaps in my frontend/JavaScript knowledge.

.. strengths

- Organised
- Acting quickly
- Thorough grasp of a system

.. weaknesses

- My reception of feedback can be peppery and impatient if offered at the wrong time

My Laravel skills

What do I enjoy about the framework?

- The speed at which you can bootstrap or rapid prototype and idea into a live money-making project
- It's not too opinionated, but opinionated enough
- Browser testing with Laravel Dusk
- Respectful community (not entitled)
- LTS and release every 6 months
- Benevolent Dictator for Life

Talk about SOLID software design principles in relation to PHP

Single Responsibility Principle

- Each module/class should have a single responsilibity in the app

Open-closed principle

- Should be able to extend a module, but not change it
- Uncle Bob says that 'A class should have only one reason to change'
- Aim is to protect high-level code/core functionality when you add new functionality by separating into a hierarchy of dependencies

Liskov Substitution Principle

- `class Foo implements SomeInterface` - Can easily swap out subtypes by replacing objects without altering the program/app properties through inheriting of interfaces
- An LSP violation simply extends from a parent class and methods of the inheriting class would have different method signatures and so are incompatible methods

Interface Segregation

- Code shouldn't depend on methods that it does not use
- Decouple code so you can make changes in one section without affecting others
- Can be adhered to by having two classes inherit from different interfaces that have the same method but with differing method definition

Dependency Inversion Principle

- dependencies only refer to abstractions not inversions
- When a class in a high-level object has a use statement refering to a concretion which means the object is tightly coupled
- Use an interface and invert outputWages instead of ScreenOutput to easily swap out beahviour and insulate you from changes.
- Use a Factory to instantiate volatile concrete classes and removes the requirement to have a source code dependency

Any must have packages/libraries?

- Fractal

- Laravel Debugbar
- Entrust (Role-based authentication)
- Cors Middleware

What I am currently working on and what new tech is exciting me?

- graphql
- isomorphic javascript
- chatbots / voice assistants with Laravel botman
- configuration as code
- Laravel: Larastan static analysis
- Laravel: Telescope
- Laravel Passport: OAuth2 server
- Laravel BotMan

Questions for Paul

- What client work have you most been proud of?

- Is there a lot of backend work available, or is this more a frontend and UX focused environment?

- As I've previously worked full-stack, is there any requirement for a b/e dev to be frontend also?

- What are your main challenges regarding App development?

- Is your Backend dev purely PHP? Is there scope for other languages with microservices?

- Are progressive web apps an opportunity for Sonin?

- Are you performing App maintenance for clients? How is this managed

- What is the oldest version of Laravel that you run / do you have legacy PHP environments which run on any custom frameworks, or even worse - Zend!

Questions for Charlie

- Do you have a CI environment to run tests?
- PHP 5 or PHP7?
- What weighting is there on Frontend. I have used Angular 1 as well as worked with Angular 2-5. (but only changing config and making simple edits)
- Vue 2?
- Reusable components to use/save time?
- Company style guides?
- Do you have a devops or would I be writing my task definitions?
- Host frontend app on S3 / Object storage?
- Are there any Laravel packages you use heavily?
- Are there any Vue dependencies you use heavily/need to be aware of?

My costs

350 per day

Initial Contract Length

3 month with 2 week notice