



ARTISAN FILES

VOLUME 1

LARAVEL-NEWS



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INTRODUCTION

Just before the Laravel conference in New York, I had the idea to start a new community series on Laravel News. I dreamed of doing a weekly series where I would interview various people within the community. I thought this would be a great way of getting to know some of the people on a more personal level, and hopefully show that we are all just a community of like minded people sharing our love for development.

I asked Taylor Otwell, the creator of Laravel, if he would be interested in being interviewed. With no hesitation he said yes and that is how the series began. Since that first interview the series has been a success and something that a lot of people look forward to each week.

One of my favorite parts about the Artisan Files: reading about people's workstations and favorite apps. - Taylor Otwell

The format of the series is question and answer and although some questions overlap from week to week, I do try and personalize it around the person's background and interests. This volume contains the first twenty-three interviews.

This is not a typical "tech style" book in that it isn't teaching you any new skills directly. However, by reading about the people you can find out lots of interesting information: daily routines, their go to apps and software, and above all little bits of inspiration that is hard to find in 140 characters.

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Thanks for downloading!

-- Eric Barnes



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TAYLOR OTWELL

I am a life-long Arkansan. I'm a husband to Abigail and Dad to two kiddos. I first began tinkering with computers when I was around 11 years old. My first computer was a 66MHz machine with a "turbo" button. My first "programming" experience was writing a basic HTML website of my tips for the the original "Civilization" computer game.

I attended Arkansas Tech University where I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology. My degree primarily focused on computer networking and hard-

ware; however, a large trucking company based in Arkansas hired me to write .NET and COBOL programs. They place every new hire in an internal six month training program, which is where I learned how to program in 2008.

At this company I did WinForms, ASP.NET, and ASP.NET MVC development, as well as Classic ASP, COBOL, JCL, and even some IBM Assembler on a z/OS mainframe.

I eventually wanted to explore a few start-up ideas I had, and knew from a friend that PHP was easy to write and cheap to host. The first PHP framework I used was CodeIgniter and I thought it was wonderful. However, I wanted to bring some of the practices that were common in .NET to CodeIgniter, like automatic resolution of controller dependencies, Blade / Razor templating and more. So, at first I developed my own private fork of CodeIgniter that had these features; however, I later decided to write my own micro-framework with these features. Laravel was born.

I First Found Laravel At V2. Can You Believe The Growth?

I did not expect the growth to happen at this rate. I never imagined we would be having conferences and meet-ups around the world after just a couple of years. A huge driver behind the growth is the community and resources they create. Things like Laracasts, the forums, and the multitude of blog posts and tutorials that people write make it really easy for people to get started with the framework. So, I owe a lot to the community for the growth of Laravel.

If You Could Be On A Reality Show Or Sitcom Which One Would You Want To Be On?

I wouldn't mind being on "The Office". It would certainly never be a boring place to work.



Taylor's minimal desktop

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

Ha! I love questions like this because I'm always interested in other people's work flow as well. Right now I use a Macbook Pro Retina (15 inch), Sublime Text 3, Github For Mac, Laravel Homestead, iTerm 2, Sequel Pro, Navicat, Airmail, Textual, Hipchat, Adium, Tweetdeck, Skype, and Spotify. Those are the applications I use on a daily basis.

What Do You See For The Future Of Php?

Over the next few years, I think you will see more framework consolidation. We've seen this already with CodeIgniter and Kohana slowly falling out of use, and in Kohana's case even discontinued entirely. I think it's possible we will see the same happen with other frameworks and probably be left with Symfony, Zend, and Laravel as the main players in the framework arena.

I think Laravel is well positioned right now because we use over two dozen popular community packages to build the framework.

We are starting to see more "component collections". Symfony is obviously the most popular and most "proven" in this area and is the foundation for some of the components of Laravel like the HTTP abstraction. I think Laravel is well positioned right now because we use over two dozen popular community packages to build the framework. It's a very eclectic framework which tries to use the best of what the PHP community has to offer. As a language, PHP has been making many nice, gradual improvements so I hope to see that trend continue.

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside Of The Computer?

I enjoy playing and watching basketball. I'm a big NBA fan. I pay yearly to get access to stream every game. I would still say coding is my main "hobby" though. Laravel is my "Minecraft" in a sense. It's where I go to be creative and build cool things. It's relaxing for me to work on a new Laravel feature.

How Do You Manage A Full Time Job And Laravel?

One thing that helps me be very productive in a few short hours is thinking ahead. So, if I'm driving to the store or taking a shower, I'll try to solve a given problem, so that when I sit down at the computer all I really have to do is implement the solution. The problem has already been solved.

It's a little different from your typical work day, in that during a work day you are confronted with totally new problems and you haven't had time to plan ahead. With Laravel I find I often have days to think about a solution during my "down time". As a kid, I would see some older folks sitting on their front porch whittling a piece of wood. I suppose it's kind of like that. If I'm doing another task or driving somewhere, I'm typically whittling on a problem in my head so that I can work very quickly once I actually get to a computer.

What Made You Decide To Build Forge?

Forge is basically the culmination of my vision for Laravel. As I mentioned in my talk at Laracon, I want the entire application development process to be streamlined and enjoyable from download to deploy. With the Laravel framework, we had the middle part of actually doing the developing solved, but the initial environment setup and final application deployment were still unsolved. People had various ways of coping with this, either by using MAMP, rolling their own virtual machine, or using a full PaaS, which is often quite expensive.

Laravel is developer happiness from download to deploy.

With Homestead, we provide a turnkey solution to local Laravel development, and Forge provides the same for your production environment. Essentially, I wanted to remove all roadblocks to developer's creativity. So, when you have that great start-up idea in the middle of the night, there is nothing holding you back. You have a great local environment, a great development environment, and an easy way to get that application out into the wild.



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DAYLE REES

Dayle Rees is a best selling tech author, color scheme maker, speaker, and all around nice Welsh lad. I've had the pleasure of knowing him for years.

How Did You First Find Laravel?

Let's see. It feels like such a long time ago now. I almost can't imagine life without Laravel being a part of it!

Before Laravel, like many other developers, I was using CodeIgniter. It was the first time I'd become involved with a framework or open source project. I wasn't initially a contributor, but I spent a lot of time within the community offering support. I'm sure that both ShawnMcCool and I were some of the most active people in the CodeIgniter IRC channel for some time.

Eventually I decided that I'd like to contribute something. While I'm certainly a developer, I also enjoy doing a little design and front end work, so I decided to contribute something pretty.

CodeIgniter had a welcome screen at the time, the first that you'd see when you unpack the framework. I guess an ugly version of Laravel's own 'You have arrived.' screen that you see today. I wanted to change this screen to be more appealing. First impressions are really important in life, why should it be any different for a framework?

I got started on a pretty new welcome screen, with some inspiring welcome text. Eventually, I had learned all I needed to submit my pull request. The person tasked with inspecting my pull request was none other than the legendary Phil Sturgeon. At the time I looked up to him as somewhat of an open source hero, and it's strange to think that lately I get to chat to him and joke around! How things change!

So Phil asked if anyone was interested in the pull request, I think it was on Twitter. That very day we received over 100 +1's on the PR, and my inbox had never been so busy.

The next day the pull request was merged, and the people of CodeIgniter were happy! For around 24 hours. Phil received notice from EllisLabs that they must have full control over the image of the framework, and that they had something in the pipeline for the welcome screen (which as far as I know, never was completed).

Phil was forced to remove the commit, and my work along with it. Now obviously I can't blame Phil or EllisLab, it was their product after all. However, that day I discovered that there was a limit to my usefulness when it came to that specific project.

At the same time I was also starting to feel that I had outgrown CodeIgniter a little, and was looking to further my learning. It was time to look for a new project. Coming from CodeIgniter, there were two brand new projects to look at. FuelPHP and Laravel. Now I suppose that FuelPHP would have been the next logical step, given that it shared a number of CodeIgniter contributors and at the time had a similar syntax.

Laravel's syntax was simple and expressive, nothing like anything I had seen previously in the PHP world.

Sure, it would have been the sensible choice, but I've never been one to follow conventions. I came across Laravel. Version 2.7 to be exact, a little framework created by a tall chap from Arkansas. It had no users, but after reading through the documentation several times I could tell it had real potential. Its syntax was simple and expressive, nothing like anything I had seen previously in the PHP world.

So what if it had no users? It was fun! I got started using it, and lurking in the IRC room, which pretty much belonged to Phill Sparks and I. Occasionally Taylor would show up, and we'd not say anything. Once again he was a code hero, which once again is funny since now we've become good friends.

After a while of using this nifty new framework, I knew what I had to do. I had to help more people discover it. It was a worthy cause. Taylor was a clever chap, and he'd created something fantastic. So I began writing. I wrote and I wrote and I wrote. I'd never written any documentation of this kind before. It was new to me, but I was addicted. The tutorials gained a fair bit of attention, which was fantastic! A clever chap called Eric Barnes suggested that I create a Leanpub title from my tutorials, which later became Code Happy. This led to an open source career of Laravel contributions, community involvement and further writing adventures, and the rest as they say, is history.

You Have Two Best Selling Books Are You Planning More?

Oh yes definitely! I love writing, and more than that, I love teaching. I've been mentoring others through both my written work, and in the workplace, and it's an experience that I find hard to describe.

I myself do both back-end and front-end development. I do system administration. I do graphics. I do a bit of everything. My curiosity drives me to discovering new skills, and for this reason I have a great pool of topics to write about.

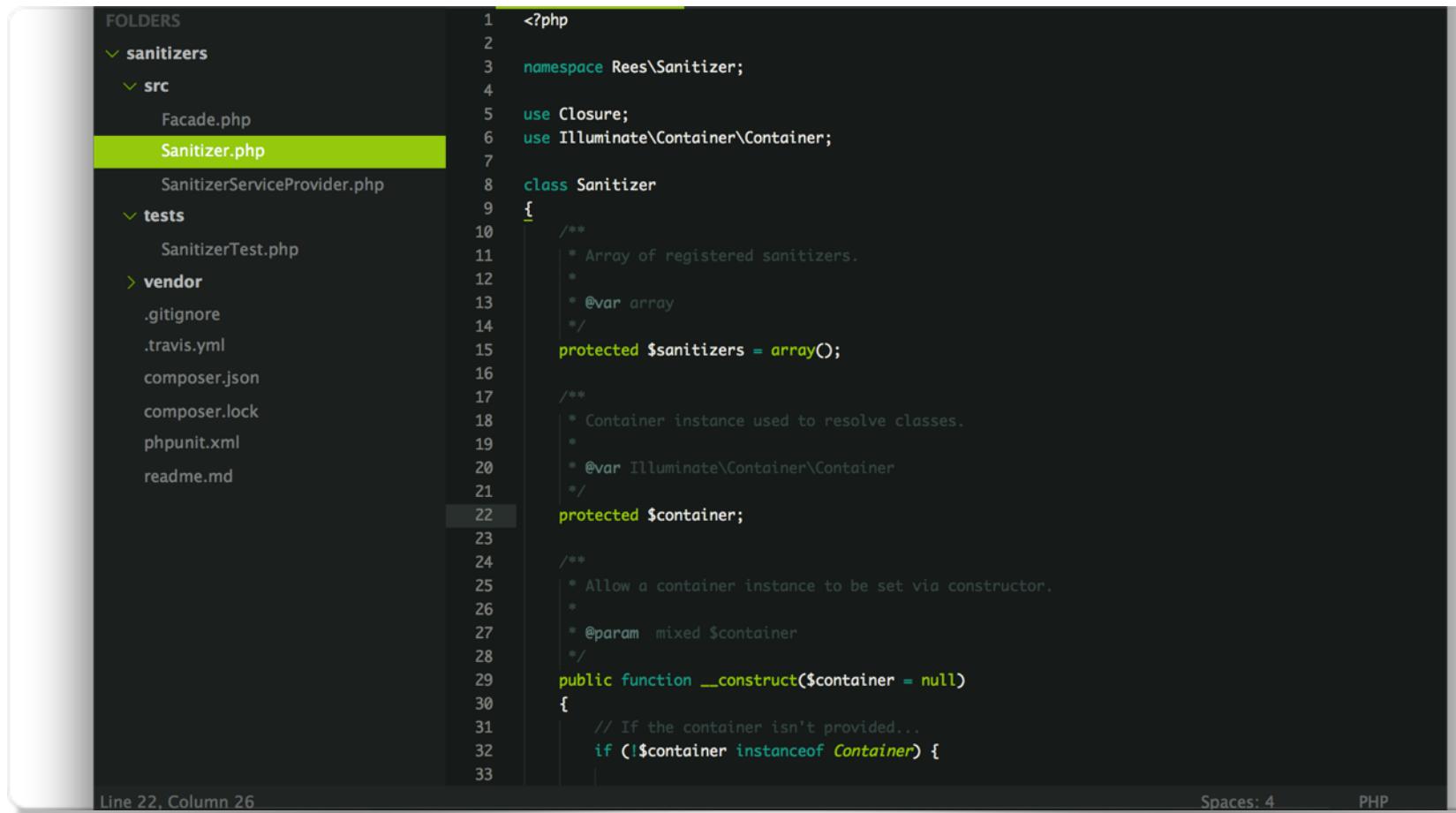
My true passion is writing for beginners. A blank canvas to mould. With beginners I can teach life-changing skills and build passion and curiosity within each and every individual. I find it very exciting. There are lots of books written for beginners that are very stern and boring. I like to be a little silly and exciting. I like to get the point across in the most simple way, and to use pop culture references to ease the learning process.

I make up for my writing experience with pure energy.

With no formal writing background, I write in a very simple and down-to-earth way. I'm not a literary genius. There are spelling mistakes and grammatical errors, but I've been told that it all adds to the personality of my writing. I make up for my experience with pure energy.

Code Bright is far from complete. We're standing at about 416 pages of A4 at the moment, and I could honestly write 400 more. I'm not entirely sure when it will be 'done'. I'm just going to keep writing until it feels right. I'd love to see it printed since I'm sure it will look like an absolute monster on my bookshelf!

I'm also working on a new title called 'PHPandas'. That's right, the pandas are here to stay. It's a beginners book for PHP. By beginner, I mean absolute beginner! No existing experience assumed. I'm testing each and every chapter on my girlfriend Emma to see if they make sense. I'm having a lot of fun writing this book, and I hope it will be in the hands of many newcomers to the language before too long.



A screenshot of a code editor showing a PHP file. The sidebar on the left lists project files: FOLDERS, sanitizers (containing src/Facade.php and Sanitizer.php), tests (containing SanitizerTest.php), vendor (containing .gitignore, .travis.yml, composer.json, composer.lock, and phpunit.xml), and readme.md. The main pane shows the Sanitizer.php code with syntax highlighting for PHP and annotations. The code defines a Sanitizer class with a protected \$sanitizers array and a protected \$container. It includes a constructor that checks if a container is provided. The code editor interface includes a status bar at the bottom with 'Line 22, Column 26', 'Spaces: 4', and 'PHP'.

```
1 <?php
2
3 namespace Rees\Sanitizer;
4
5 use Closure;
6 use Illuminate\Container\Container;
7
8 class Sanitizer
9 {
10
11     /**
12      * Array of registered sanitizers.
13      *
14      * @var array
15      */
16     protected $sanitizers = array();
17
18     /**
19      * Container instance used to resolve classes.
20      *
21      * @var Illuminate\Container\Container
22      */
23     protected $container;
24
25     /**
26      * Allow a container instance to be set via constructor.
27      *
28      * @param mixed $container
29      */
30     public function __construct($container = null)
31     {
32         // If the container isn't provided...
33         if (!$container instanceof Container) {
```

One of Dayle's many color schemes

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

I converted to the church of Apple a few years ago now. I used to be against them and their extremely overpriced hardware. Then I purchased an iPhone and fell in love with it. Someone suggested I try a Mac and I thought, well, it's the only operating system I haven't tried. Sure, I'll give it a go!

I loved it. It was clean, stylish, and had all the aspects of Linux that I loved, with all the usability benefits of beautiful GUI applications. With a designers impact upon the applications that frequent the Mac OSX operating system I think that it feels like a nicer workspace.

Most of our days are bent over our keyboards, we should enjoy and find beauty with each and every tool.

As for my workflow, well I guess you could say I'm fairly traditional. I do most of my development using Sublime Text. Sure, sometimes I miss the advantages of an IDE, but I'm willing to make the sacrifice for the speed. Appearance of applications is also a huge thing to me, and Sublime is one of the most beautiful editors I've ever had the pleasure of using. We spend most of our days bent over our keyboards writing code into these editors, so we should enjoy our toolset, and we should find beauty within each and every tool. I also find that using a pure text-editor keeps my skills honed, as the IDE isn't responsible for as much 'magic'.

I mostly work with PHP and front-end development. It's true I use other stacks, but mostly for a learning experience or to fiddle with a new and trendy project. These types of things I'll install natively.

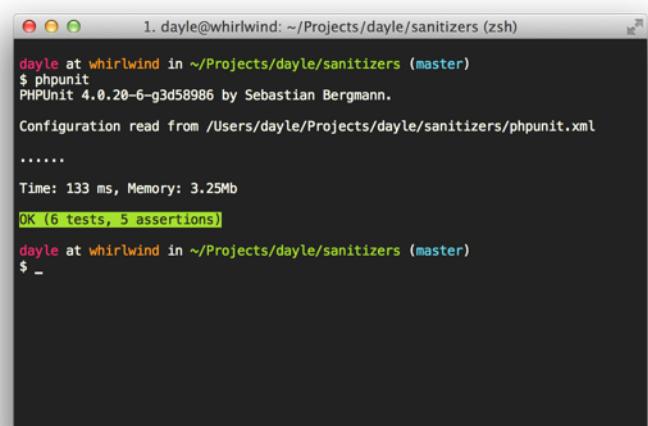
For my PHP project I use Vagrant. I have no local webserver on my Mac. I use the Ansible project for provisioning, and have written all of the playbooks myself. I love being able to version my environments, and to be up and running with a single vagrant up. It's a fantastic project.

I use Photoshop and Illustrator for all my graphical work. Yes, I know it's strange for a developer to be a fan of Photoshop, but I absolutely love it! Many developers have told me I should try GIMP or Pixelmator, but I know the Photoshop shortcuts, and I find they do strange things in the other applications. I'm not entirely sure why I learned Photoshop to begin with, but I suppose it was curiosity again!

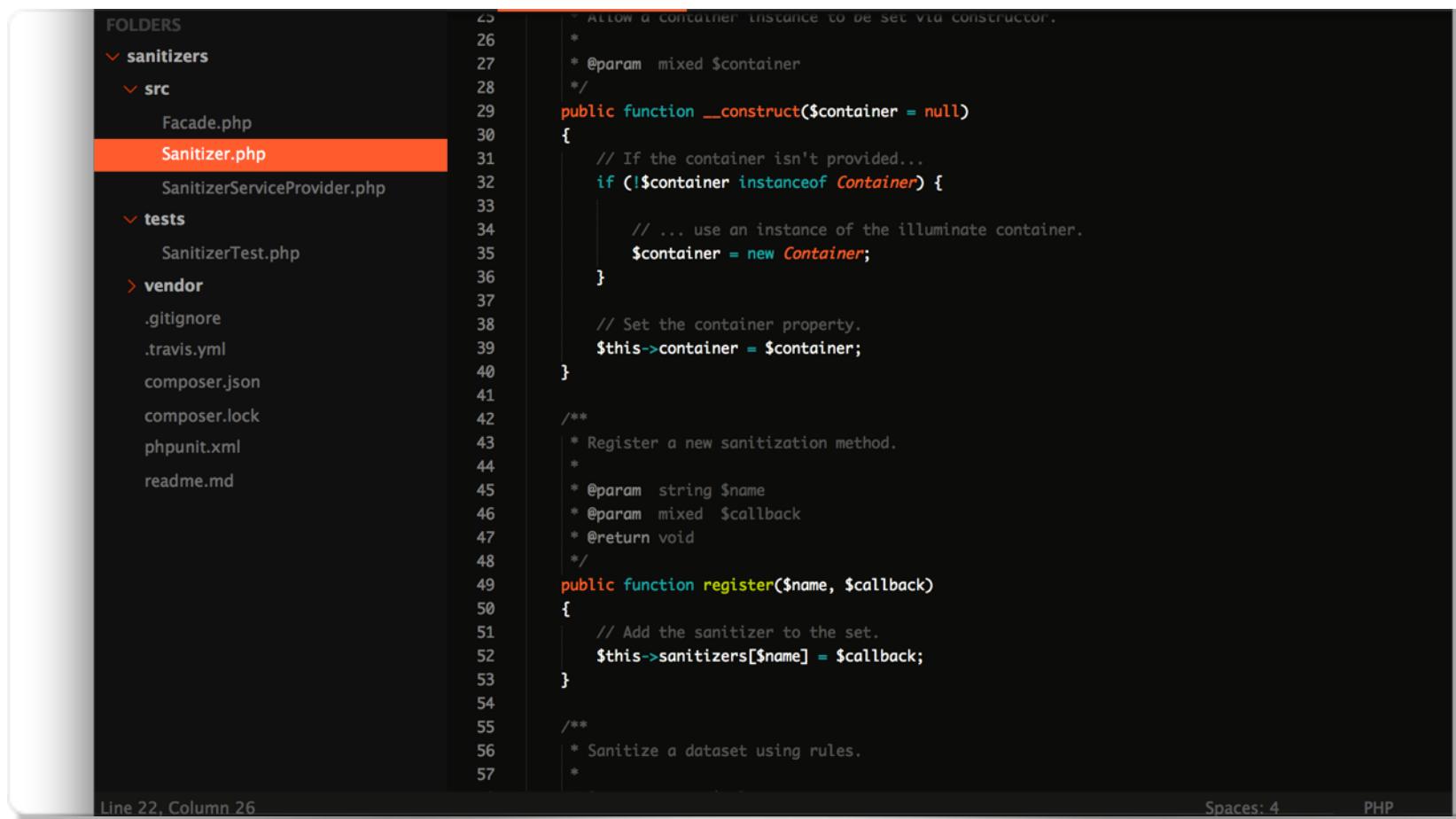
Other than Photoshop and Sublime, I suppose I do the rest of my work in the terminal. I prefer terminal clients for most things, but my memory is too terrible to remember all of the VIM commands!

Some development applications that I enjoy using on Mac are CodeKit which is a great way to rapidly prototype front-end projects using a range of preprocessors, and Byword which I use for writing my books in Markdown format.

Also, I love music. I can't live without Spotify!



1. dayle@whirlwind: ~/Projects/dayle/sanitizers (zsh)
dayle at whirlwind in ~/Projects/dayle/sanitizers (master)
\$ phpunit
PHPUnit 4.0.20-6-g3d58986 by Sebastian Bergmann.
Configuration read from /Users/dayle/Projects/dayle/sanitizers/phpunit.xml
.....
Time: 133 ms, Memory: 3.25Mb
OK (6 tests, 5 assertions)
dayle at whirlwind in ~/Projects/dayle/sanitizers (master)
\$ -



```
FOLDERS
  > sanitizers
    > src
      Facade.php
      Sanitizer.php
      SanitizerServiceProvider.php
    > tests
      SanitizerTest.php
  > vendor
    .gitignore
    .travis.yml
    composer.json
    composer.lock
    phpunit.xml
    readme.md

25  * ALLOW a Container instance to be set via constructor.
26  *
27  * @param mixed $container
28  */
29  public function __construct($container = null)
30  {
31      // If the container isn't provided...
32      if (!$container instanceof Container) {
33
34          // ... use an instance of the illuminate container.
35          $container = new Container;
36
37      }
38
39      // Set the container property.
40      $this->container = $container;
41
42      /**
43      * Register a new sanitization method.
44      *
45      * @param string $name
46      * @param mixed $callback
47      * @return void
48      */
49      public function register($name, $callback)
50      {
51          // Add the sanitizer to the set.
52          $this->sanitizers[$name] = $callback;
53      }
54
55      /**
56      * Sanitize a dataset using rules.
57      *
```

Line 22, Column 26 Spaces: 4 PHP

Peacock Contrast Theme

What Made You Decide To Create All Those Color Schemes And Which One Are You Currently Using?

Haha, that's a good question. I suppose I should explain first. I have created, and maintain a collection of 100+ colour schemes for a huge range of editors, IDE's and other colour related projects that are used by hundreds of thousands of developers around the globe.

So why did I create it? You know, I'm not sure!

I was feeling a little bored one weekend, and decided to try and make a colour scheme that would be more visually appealing than the Monokai theme that ships with Sublime text. Not that there's anything wrong with Monokai, but it can get boring after a while!

Eventually I came up with a theme called Freshcut. It was a fresh cut grass green theme, with a touch of blue because... well.. WHY NOT BLUE. It was pretty popular amongst some of the Laravel community. I know that Shawn McCool was pretty fond

of it, but I found myself in the same position. Looking for something to beat Freshcut so... well.. I guess I made a hundred more. I even started taking requests for colour schemes.

I guess I got a little carried away, since now there are themes for almost every editor on the market, even interface themes and bootstrap themes. It's amazing to be making developers lives a little more colourful! Notice how I spell colour with a U? I'm a brit don't you know!

So which theme am I using at the moment? Well it's the one you've seen in the Sublime screenshot above. It's called 'Kiwi' and is very green. Very, very green. It's not my favourite theme, but I like to rotate them every now and again to see how they feel. I suppose I'd have to say that my favourite is Peacock Contrast. I've yet to write a theme that beats Peacock.

Between A Full Time Job, Books, Open Source, And Life How Do You Find Time? What Is Your Typical Day Like?

It's true! I work at a startup called ParkatmyHouse. We're like Airbnb for parking spaces. We allow property owners to list their extra space to pocket some extra passive income. This also solves the issue of parking in a number of busy locations around the globe. It's a very satisfying job, I love helping people!

Startups are fantastic for individuals with large skill sets. I like to dabble in many areas of IT, and my work with ParkatmyHouse has allowed me to utilize a great number of the skills that I've learned.

I won't lie though. It's busy! In fact, we're recruiting at the moment to expand our team and share the workload.

So if you want to free up some of my time so I can work on other fantastic open source projects, why not join our team?

Once I'm done with my work day, I head home, stuff my face with food and catch up with my girlfriend Emma. I've been with Emma for six years, and she's the only person who's been willing to accept my nerdy obsessions.

Next I'll probably work on my book, work on a number of experimental projects, or generally do something quite nerdy.

Sometimes I'll play some video games, but quite often I feel guilty when doing so, and end up working anyway!

I have a bunch of household chores to do too, but I'm sure you don't want to hear about those!

If You Could Be On A Reality Show Which One Would You Like To Be On?

Honestly, I don't really watch TV. Sorry :(

Actually, maybe one of those 'The only way is Essex' type shows, so I could punch them in their stupid, stupid faces.

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside The Computer?

Oh sure! Plenty. They are all nerdy though I'm afraid. My girlfriend and I both play a lot of video games. We own all the consoles, and have a gaming PC each. We even play those big nasty MMO games that are so addictive!

I also like to watch anime (naruto in particular), and cult TV series'. Yes, I know I said I don't watch TV, but sometimes I stream an entire series and binge on it! Right now I'm working my way through Californication. What a steamy show!

Sometimes I like to go Geocaching with Emma. It's a GPS based game of hide and seek, where you look for tupperware containers out in the while whos locations are marked by GPS co-ordinates. It's a lot of fun, and gets me out of the house for a while.

I like gadgets. All kinds of gadgets. I spend way too much money on them. Right now my favourite gadgets are my Pebble watch, and the Oculus rift. I'm currently waiting for my DevKit 2.

Oh and of course. Sports, because what kind of man err.. doesn't like sports. What kind of sports? Well I guess, ones with a ball or something. I guess.

GO LOCAL SPORTS TEAM.



4

JEFFREY WAY

I'm a developer and instructor, who has been in the industry for over a decade. While, over the years, I've worked for a number of different companies, these days I happily run my own business, called Laracasts.

In terms of how I got into web development, it's actually a rather funny story. Well - less funny, and more scary. A long, long time ago, a family member of mine wanted to start a songwriter-specific membership site that offered various mentoring

and publishing services. So what did I do? I said I'd build it! If that doesn't come across as insane, I suppose I should provide some context. At that time, I had absolutely zero experience with the web. Zero. Zip. Nada. I didn't even know what a `<div>` was. So, to say that I was in over my head is the understatement of the century. I had absolutely no business building this product. Subscriptions? Credit cards? SSL? I can't think of a more dangerous "first website."

The only two things I had going for me was complete naivety (which can be beneficial in many cases), and youth. I soaked up every relevant book I could find, like a sponge. But, being self-trained, there's no two ways about it: even with a few months of obsessive studying, I was in no place to build such a site. Remember: this was a long time ago. The educational resources that exist today were nowhere to be found back then. We just had very expensive and confusing books.

To make a long story short, yes, I built the site...and, yes, I built it in the worst, most dangerous way possible. Credit card numbers? Yeah, those went straight to the server, and were saved as clear text. SSL? Haha, forget about it. I had no clue what that was. Recurring billing? Well, that's an easy task if you manually charge each user's card every month, using your telephone.

Just talking about this is giving me the shivers. I'm happy to say that, today, I'm far more seasoned in these areas. But I guess we all start somewhere! Luckily, the site lasted only a few months before being shut down.

Ever since then, I've had the bug.

How Did You First Find Laravel And What Was The Tipping Point For You To Convert Totally To It?

It's fair to say that, with just about everything, I am an early adopter. Sometimes, I make a fool of myself (I thought Google Buzz would be big), but, usually, this works out quite well for me. In tech especially, early adopters have a level of familiarity and expertise that's difficult to compete with. As I run Laracasts, this is a good thing!

In the case of Laravel, I wasn't there at the beginning. Practically no one was. But, I suppose it's important to remember that the timespan between Laravel 1 and Laravel 3 is relatively small (eight months or so). I came on board in 2012.

At the time, I was doing more and more work with Ruby on Rails, which I quite like. But – and I mentioned this during my Laracon New York presentation – I had a gut feeling about Laravel. Because Taylor wasn't burdened by old PHP (the relative atrocities of PHP4), he seemed to approach the framework in a different way than was common at the time. His instincts were simply different. Also, even way back then, I had the distinct impression that he understood something that most framework/library maintainers don't: at the end of the day, Laravel is a product. This means, while the code is of course most important, developer happiness, ease of use, flexibility, and branding are equally vital. Laravel nails each of those wonderfully. The simple fact was that Laravel made coding fun, regardless of your skill level. Once I realized this, it became clear that the Laravel community was one that I wanted to invest a considerable amount of my time into. And, based on this most recent Laracon (NYC), it's even more clear that I made the right choice. Taylor was doing some Steve Jobs level presenting on stage. I'm particularly fond of the "Available Now" flashy slide. :)

What Made You Decide To Start Laracasts And How Do You See Online Training Changing Over The Next Five Years?

It's doing better than I ever would have anticipated. Before Laracasts, I was the head of web development courses at Tuts+. Though I absolutely enjoyed my time there (and learned a lot), the company was moving in a different direction than I would have chosen. As Tuts+ continues to branch out to more and more topics, I found myself leaning toward smaller, more dedicated communities. The blogs I read are typically maintained by single developers, or small teams. At this point in my career, that's where I learn the most.

Now, back to Laracasts: I wanted to create a site that was for people just like me. If you're into modern PHP and Laravel, then every single Laracast is tailor-made for you. Every forum thread is relevant to you. Every member is someone just like you. I love that!

I've been recording little videos for a long time now. Originally, they served no real purpose, other than to serve as a visual journal for myself. I'd finally learn how to do something, and would quickly record a video for myself, to ensure that I didn't forget! Interestingly – which I didn't expect – once I uploaded these videos to YouTube,

people actually watched them! This was the first time that I truly recognized that there are countless people just like me...trying to figure out all this stuff. Coding is hard!

I think of Laracasts as eight-minute abs: just short bursts of knowledge for you to fit in whenever you have the time.

In reference to where I see online training in five years, I honestly have no idea. Sites like Khan Academy are doing some incredibly innovative stuff related to teaching children in the browser. My audience at Laracasts is a bit different: they're working professionals (at some level or another), who want to stay up to date on the latest tooling, techniques, and patterns. I think of Laracasts as eight-minute abs: just short bursts of knowledge for you to fit in whenever you have the time.

Can You Share Your Typical Daily Routine?

At the time of this writing, I personally manage every ounce of Laracasts. This includes everything from the design (my apologies), to the videos, to the marketing, to feature development. It's a massive amount of work, but I've learned so much in these last six months.

My rule is that there must be a minimum of four new videos on the site each week. Often, there will be more, but this is the baseline. That way, each day, there will be something new to watch. These videos take a considerable amount of time to prepare. And, in many cases, I must first devote any number of hours to first learning the thing in which I'm teaching. The recent series on Laravel Forge is a perfect example of this.

So, while the content of Laracasts takes up much of my day, the remainder is put toward answering questions, responding to support queries, and, of course, actually working on the Laracasts codebase. The wonderful thing about managing Laracasts on my own is that I can push a new feature out at 2:00 in the morning, without needing to have two weeks worth of company discussions.

With All Your Followers Do You Have To Limit Your Online Persona And Be Careful Sharing Personal Things?

It's almost like I have two different lives. In real life, I have a small group of friends and family who know nothing about what I do for a living. Explaining PHP or Laravel to my mom is not the easiest task in the world. "So what exactly do you do?" she'll frequently ask me.

As hard as this industry is, it's important that we all share what we've figured out

But, online, because I've been around, somewhat in the public eye, for quite a while now, it's a very different world. I'm not sure I'd say I'm internet famous, but if that's true, it's only because I get excited by new technologies, and love showing others what I've learned. As hard as this industry is, it's important that we all share what we've figured out. If Laracasts is successful, it's only because I, too, am learning new things every day...just like every person who watches a lesson.

On Twitter, yes, I probably censor myself a bit. I treat Twitter almost exclusively as a place to talk code with others like me. In fact, I follow zero friends or family on Twitter. I use Facebook for those purposes. So, typically, that's where I'll get into larger discussions that have no relevance to code. As much as people hate Facebook, it's a really great tool for friendly debates. When else do you have a chance to talk about important issues with folks all over the world – many of whom have vastly different viewpoints than you? On that note, I have no clue if I just used "whom" correctly, but I'm going for it.

I Assume Web Dev Is Not Only Your Job But Also A Hobby. Do You Have Any Other Hobbies?

No. ...Just kidding. Though, I must admit that coding takes up a lot of my time these days. My wife picks at me sometimes, when we're on vacation, because the book I'll choose to read will always be one related to code. "Stop working!" she'll say. It's dif-

ficult to explain that this is relaxation to me...and probably everyone reading this interview right now.

But, sure, I have countless other hobbies. For the longest time, the plan was to become a studio musician. I've been playing guitar for as long as I can remember. Beyond that, going to a coffee shop with a friend, and playing a game of chess is something that I very much enjoy. And, naturally, I'm a big movie buff, enjoy video games (Nintendo, give me my dang Metroid Prime 4), and, as is seemingly required for all Laravel devs, watched every episode of Breaking Bad religiously.

Just For Fun What Are Your Go To Mac Apps?

At all times, PHPStorm, Sequel Pro, iTerm, Mac GitHub, Chrome, Twitter, and The Hit List are open. I use Moom for window resizing, Cloud for file/photo sharing, 1Password for password management, and Screenflow for video tutorials. Of course there are others, but these are the core apps I reference each day.



5

JASON LEWIS

I'm 23 years old at the moment but sometimes I feel about twice that. Not sure if that's a good thing or a bad thing. I live in the awesome hemisphere (that's the southern one), in a faraway land known as Australia. It's an unbelievable country, I think everyone should come and check it out. Don't stress, not everything here wants to kill you! I'm currently between places at the moment so I'm shacked up with my old folks and my beautiful beagle, Sophie!

From an early age I was always pretty interested in technology and the like. When I was about 11 or 12 my cousin and I used to muck around with MSN Groups and make rip-off websites with cheats for games like Pokémon. I eventually taught myself HTML and had a few websites hosted at places like GeoCities, Angelfire, and HostUltra.

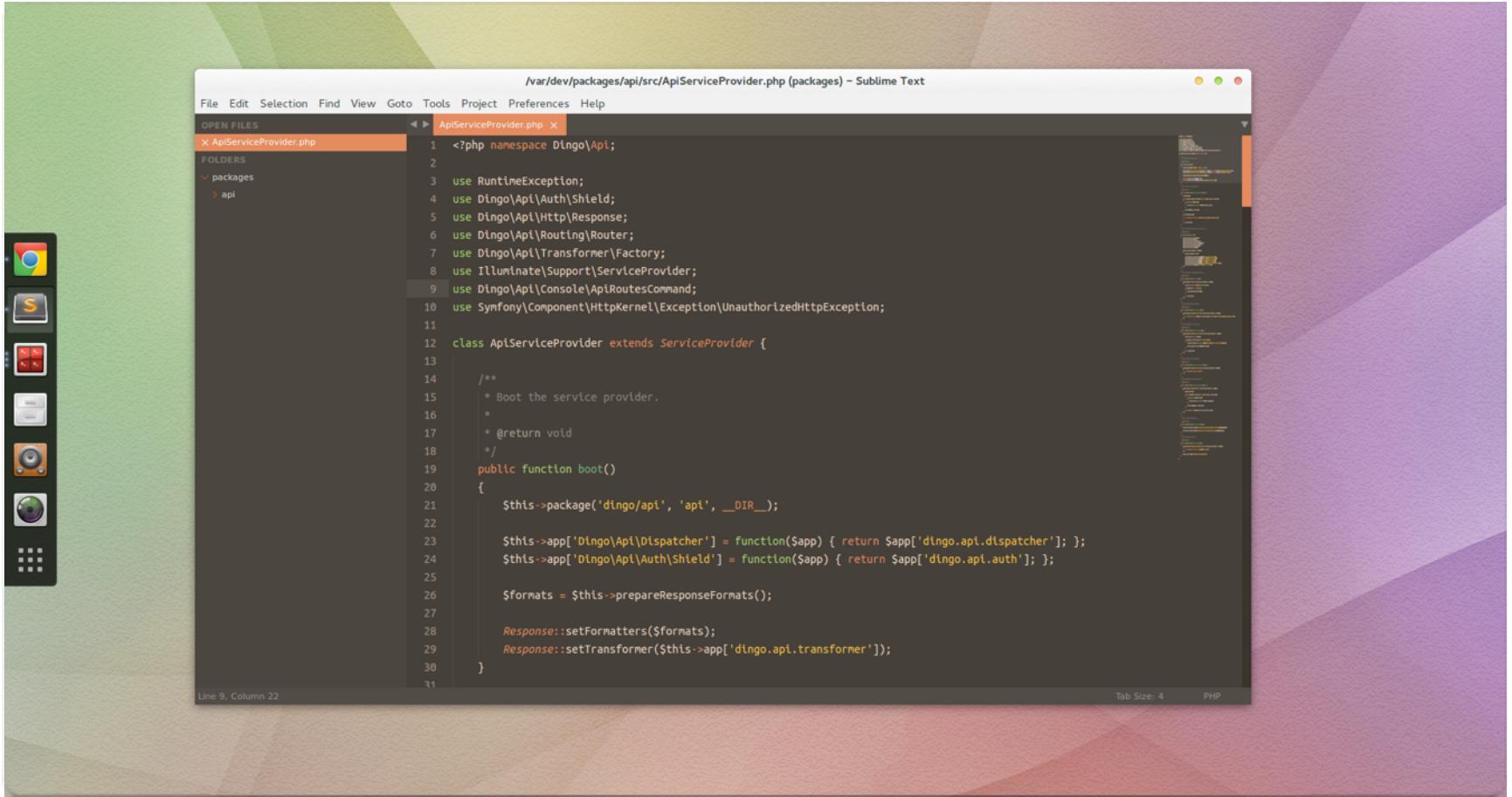
When I was around 14 or 15 I started moving more towards PHP and this is where I consider the actual start for my love of web development. So for me I think it was my general curiosity on how that thing on the computer screen does that stuff.

When Did You First Come Across This Framework?

I first came across Laravel in around July of 2011. At that time I was using FuelPHP and spent a lot of time in IRC there. One day a person (who will remain anonymous) came along and started kicking up a storm about how much better Laravel was because it used closures! From memory I ended up joining #laravel and informing Taylor of his rogue user. I think at that stage there were maybe 6 or 7 people in the IRC channel. It probably wasn't much longer after that I joined the forums and began using Laravel 1.4 to build my personal blog as a sort of trial run. I started spending a lot of time in the IRC channel and have seen it grow from less than 10 people to an average of 400 or so today. It's been amazing to watch the framework evolve into what it is today. Back in 2011, in the world of PHP, Laravel was a completely different framework. That's what kept me around. It was different, and I liked different.

You Seemed To Have A Crazy Life. Firefighting, Military, And A Pie Factory. How Do You End Up In Development?

Yeah my lifestyle is fairly hectic at the best of times. After finishing school in 2008 I went straight into the military. After a year there I worked in a pie factory for several months and for the last 4 or so years I've been working as a professional firefighter. But web development goes back to before I even finished school. I started developing websites back in early 2006. Even though I don't do it for full time work I do consider it more than just a hobby. I say this a lot but I do plan on shifting my career once more to focus completely on web development. I'm hoping after this fire season I can make that transition.



Jason's desktop

What Is Your Primary Operating System?

I run Ubuntu GNOME 14.04 on both my main computer and my laptop, however both systems are dual booted with Windows. I have a LAMP stack configured running PHP 5.5.9, Apache 2.4.7, and MySQL 14.14. As I don't do a whole heap of client work this simple setup works perfectly for me. Whenever I boot my computer the first 3 applications that are opened are Chrome, Sublime, and Terminator.

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside Of Web Development?

Outside of web development (and my other jobs) I absolutely love taking the boat out and having a fish. There's nothing better than cruising across water that is as flat as can be, watching the sun rise, and flicking some lures. Absolute bliss. I also love going out with friends to see new movies because you just can't get enough of that cinema popcorn. Some other things I enjoy are playing basketball, reading, skateboarding, and watching Anime.

If You Was Stranded On A Desert Island What Three Things Would You Bring?

If I was stranded on a desert island I would probably take a fishing rod because I'm not too good at throwing spears at fish, a Bear Grylls flint because those things are unbelievable, and, of course, a Wilson volleyball to be my best friend!



6

MATTHEW MACHUGA

I'm 27yrs old, father of a beautiful 15mo old girl named Vaeda, and husband to an amazing woman named Hali. I'm from Erie, Pennsylvania, have a Computer Science degree, and have been coding for about a decade now.

The web just really seemed to interest me so I started toying around with PHP, CodeIgniter, Ruby, Rails, Django, and pretty much anything else I could get my hands on. It's been a blast so far so I'm pretty sure I went the right direction :)

How Did You First Find Laravel?

The first time I saw Laravel was when Taylor announced the first version on Forrst however long ago. It reminded me a lot of Sinatra for Ruby at the time so it was neat to see something in PHP taking on the same concepts. At the time I didn't have a use case for it, but kept my eye on it as it went through various stages of its development. It was fun to watch it evolve over time.

Once 3.2 came out it had enough features for my coworker and I to convince our manager at the time to let us port a newly started FuelPHP project over to Laravel. I had been hanging out in the IRC room for a few months prior to that since most of our previous CodeIgniter community migrated there and it was great to reconnect with friends. After that I really started to fully engage in the community and development/maintenance of Laravel and it's just kind of gone from there.

I Know From Past Conversations You Used To Big Into BMX. Do You Still Ride?

Yup! I still try to get out as much as I can, but it definitely takes a backburner to my daughter, wife, and other responsibilities. It's still something I love to do, time is just short these days like I'm sure you know! I still need the physical activity so I try to get to the gym before everyone wakes up in the morning so that definitely helps hold me over till the next evening or weekend time I have free. Even got out for a few hours last night!

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment? What Operating System, What Are Your Favorite Apps?

Hah well I've gone through a few changes lately trying out some new things so I'll give you a bit of both.

OS X is my standard OS. I sometimes dabble in Arch and Ubuntu, but OS X is home. I stay in the command line pretty heavily. I use iTerm2 as my terminal emulator, zsh for my shell, and then have a custom theme applied to oh-my-zsh with some additional plugins attached. I'm usually within tmux from the command line as well so



```

ls -la
total 2240
drwxr-xr-x 30 machuga staff 1020 May 25 10:38 .
drwxr-xr-x 8 machuga staff 272 May 20 23:09 ..
drwxr-xr-x 17 machuga staff 578 May 25 10:38 .git
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 11 Feb 10 20:02 .gitattributes
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 168 May 25 10:38 .gitignore
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 99 Feb 10 20:02 .gitmodules
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 60 Feb 10 20:02 .travis.yml
drwxr-xr-x 3 machuga staff 102 Dec 8 10:14 .vagrant
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 27 May 25 10:38 CONTRIBUTING.md
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 3808 May 25 10:38 Makefile
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 4161 May 25 10:38 README.md
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 2060 May 25 10:38 Vagrantfile
drwxr-xr-x 15 machuga staff 510 May 25 10:38 app
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 2451 Feb 10 20:02 artisan
drwxr-xr-x 5 machuga staff 170 May 25 10:38 bootstrap
drwxr-xr-x 3 machuga staff 102 Feb 10 20:02 chef
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 373 May 25 10:38 codeception.yml
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 1320 May 25 10:38 composer.json
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 109118 May 25 10:38 composer.lock
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 964690 Feb 10 20:02 composer.phar
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 159 Dec 4 22:12 deploy.sh
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 62 Feb 10 20:02 install_vagrant.sh
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 566 May 25 10:38 phpunit.xml
drwxr-xr-x 14 machuga staff 476 May 25 10:38 public
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 519 May 25 10:38 server.php
drwxr-xr-x 12 machuga staff 408 Feb 10 20:02 tests
-rwxr-xr-x 1 machuga staff 1049 Feb 10 20:02 update_environment.sh
drwxr-xr-x 8 machuga staff 272 Dec 8 10:14 vagrant-chef
drwxr-xr-x 29 machuga staff 986 Feb 10 21:20 vendor
drwxr-xr-x 3 machuga staff 102 May 25 10:38 workers

machuga:laravel-io (master*) ~
λ which vim
vim: aliased to nvim

```

```

[ 2.1.0p0 ]
1 # Description:
2 #   Poll forums or fetch for new threads manually
3 #
4 # Commands:
5 #   hubot check the forums - Tests forum search results
6 #
7
8 Poller = require '../support/poller'
9
10 PROD_MODE      = process.env.NODE_ENV is 'production'
11 POLL_INTERVAL  = 1000 * 60 * 10 # 10 minute interval to start with
12 ANNOUNCE_ROOMS = []
13
14 do &gt;
15   rooms = process.env.FORUM_POLL_ANNOUNCE_ROOMS || process.env.HUBOT_IRC_ROOMS
16   ANNOUNCE_ROOMS = rooms.split ','
17
18 # Polling system
19
20 class ForumPoller

```

Machuga's desktop

that I can split windows/panes/sessions up into logical groups while allowing them to be persistent if I happen to close iTerm. This also allows me to pick up my session from another device in the house if need be via SSH, or allows a friend or coworker to pair with me directly by sharing a tmux session.

I also tend to use Vim, or lately Neovim, from the command line. Modal editing in generally really vibes with me, and Vim's design of composing commands is really a fluid and performant way of letting me move about. I have a fair number of plugins that I use on a daily basis including CtrlP (or unite.vim), syntastic, and many others that are available in my dotfiles on github at <https://github.com/machuga/dotfiles> if anyone is curious.

Now recently I've actually been learning Emacs, but keeping all of my Vim abilities by using Evil mode, which is by far the best Vi mode I've ever used outside of Vim itself. It's almost perfect. This gives me some added benefits like async processes (which Neovim now supports but is still young), a lisp based programming environment, and a ton of modes and plugins that help with some of my productivity. An example is Magit, which is a fantastic git interface which keeps the power of the com-

mand line in a more UI-friendly way. I've been using the GUI version of Emacs for even more of a change so that I can enjoy a few extra things while still being able to launch the command line version if I'd like. It's been pretty fun thus far! I get the bonuses while still retaining nearly all of the awesomeness of Vim.

For other day-to-day software, I typically use Chrome but I've been enjoying using Firefox's nightly build for the past several months as well. Spotify is my music player/service of choice, and I tend to use Textual as my IRC client, though sometimes I'll use Weechat from the command line.

What Is Your Typical Day Like? You Are In IRC Like 24/7 :)

Haha I'm definitely in IRC a lot, but ever since I had my daughter it's been reduced heavily. I'm still online from about 8am-5pm EST and then some times after about 10:30pm at night for a bit, but my IRC bouncer makes it seem like I'm always there. I work from home so talking to people in IRC is my "watercooler" time. Plus our community is fantastic so I like to keep in touch.

A typical day for me is usually wake up at 6:30am and either venture to the gym or get started on some personal projects. Then I'll usually play with my daughter and make some breakfast before diving into work around 9. I'll usually begin pairing with a coworker around 10, take a lunch break, then pick back up till 5. Afterwards I hang out with the family until we put Vaeda to bed, then my wife and I will watch some shows or a movie and I'll work on some projects or articles at night. Things can definitely vary but that pretty much sums up my day-to-day routine.

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside Of Development?

I'd say most of my fun time goes toward hanging out with the family and taking Vaeda out for little hikes in the woods near our house. It's just such an amazing experience seeing her explore and learn constantly. Outside of that I organize a local Ruby meetup, like to read, and I'm hoping to try my hand at some gardening this year. I really want to try growing my own food for whatever reason, just seems interesting.

Finally If You Could Be On One Sitcom Or Reality TV Show Which One Would You Want To Be On?

Oh man...either How I Met You Mother or The Big Bang Theory. Let's roll with HIMYM. Being around Barney would be legen...wait for it....dary!



7

CHRIS PITTT

I'm about 28 years old, living and working near the city of Cape Town. It may sound familiar because South Africa hosted the previous World Cup, and some of the games were played in Cape Town.

I work for a company called Connect. It's part of an international company called Joe Public. Connect is based in Cape Town, and we have around 15 people, 5 of which are developers.

I'm married to the lovely Mrs Liz and have 2 kids; Elijah and Naomi. We live on a farm outside the city.

How'd You Get Into Web Dev?

I was never really into web dev. I was fortunate to have had access to computers from a young age, but my interest in them was purely for playing games.

What I wanted to do was to build electronic devices – robots and such. When I was about 8 years old, my grandfather passed away; leaving me a huge assortment of electronic components. I would spend all my time sifting through them and trying to combine them in ways that they would interact to form larger machines.

In truth, I really had no idea what I was doing, but sometimes I made something work. The process is in many ways similar to programming, and the feeling I got when something worked is comparable too!

My dad's friend had a website, so he arranged for me to just sort of hang around the agency that maintained it. This was just before I finished high school.

I visited their office for a few weeks, and after a while they gave me a job (though I'm not really sure what it was for). I knew nothing about making websites. I still sometimes feel like that. Just me bumping components together until they do something useful.

Do You Remember How You First Came Across Laravel And What Made You Start Using It?

I was introduced to Laravel by my friend, and colleague, Wayne Berry. Until then I had been making websites using Zend Framework, CodeIgniter and Plain Ol' PHP.

I didn't want to start using it because it reminded me of CakePHP. With all the statics and a command-line tool; I half imagined it would lead to the same sort of headaches I had experienced before. I was quite wrong.

Thanks to the wisdom of folks like Dayle Rees and Jeffery Way; I've become quite familiar with the framework. I find it works well for about 70%-80% of the appli-

cations I need to build. The other 20%-30% work better in micro-frameworks like Slim, or plain PHP.

You Have Already Written One Book And I've Heard You Have Plans Another. Can You Give Us Some Details?

I have two books I'm working on at the moment.

The first is a little book on working with PHP data types. I've always been interested in language design, and one of the big problems with PHP is the loss of design fidelity when it comes to the APIs used to modify these basic data types. In other words, the slew of inconsistent, global functions often make working with these data types result in messy code.

The book explains two things really; how to create clean and consistent APIs for working with these data types, and how to leverage extensions to give object-oriented access to the data types.

I've mostly completed the theoretical part of the book, and am working on the sample library implementations. You can find the book at <https://leanpub.com/typedphp>.

The second book is about building commerce applications on top of Laravel 4. There are a great many which describe how to build commerce websites. There are also a great many books on using Laravel. Hesitant to add just another of those kinds of books to the pile, Stidges and I decided we wanted to put together one that would show all the good parts of modern PHP application theory, in something practical.

We're keen to draw on the wisdom of leaders, in the Laravel community. We want to reflect the architectural ideas in Taylor's book, the testing ideas in Jeffrey's book. We want to mix in the practical aspects of API design, from Phil's book. We cite ideas and implications from these (and others), in an attempt to produce a balanced and useful outcome.

It's shaping up to be a great mix of architectural theory and grounded practice. The Catalyst guys have also been kind enough to give us access to their catalogue of

libraries; so we hope to also demonstrate, not only how developers can build their own solid stuff, but how they can integrate with what's already out there if they so choose.

You can sign up for the release announcement at <https://leanpub.com/laravel4commerce>. We hope to be able to published (an in-progress version) within the next month or so.

It Was Just Announced That You Joined Cartalyst. Is This Full Time? What Is Your Role Going To Be?

Dan Syme invited me to work on the Cartalyst documentation and to help build a bit of a learning eco-system around the libraries. It's a part-time thing, as I'm still very much involved with Connect.

I think the position Cartalyst are in is a unique one. I don't know of many companies who operate by licensing premium composer packages, so they're able to build relationships with their subscribers free from the pressures of competition.

I have no doubt they will face stronger competition than it appears they are facing now, and this should continue to drive the quality of the components up.

I'm only just getting to grips with the full suite of libraries, but I like what I've already seen. The code is clean and well-documented. I think this is going to be an enjoyable undertaking.

It Seems You Are Very Busy With A Full Time Job And Doing A Lot Of Writing. What Is Your Typical Day Like?

I get up around 6am (GMT+2), on account of little people jumping on me. I'll make some food and coffee and chase Elijah round the house a bit. Then, at about 7-7:30am, I'll start working on Connect projects (mostly in PHP API design).

Connect has a good system for remote working, so we can be flexible with the time we spend at the office. This means I'll often arrive and depart at odd hours, to avoid traffic. After all, the less time I spend sitting in a car, the more time I can spend writing code.

Usually, at around 5pm-6pm I finish up with my Connect work. Then I'll chase Elijah around the house some more, read stories to Naomi and hang out with Liz. The kids go to bed around 7pm. Liz and I hang out for a couple more hours, and then she'll go off and do something creative, while I code.

Sometimes I code in bed, other times it's in the lounge or the office. I usually sleep around 1am, unless I'm doing something particularly exciting.

Sometimes things change, which is refreshing. I also really love what I do, so the writing/coding at night is fun work for me.

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?



I work on a 13" Macbook Air, using only the built-in trackpad and keyboard (no additional screens either). I've used bigger setups before, but I am enamored with the mobile sufficiency of my current setup.

I used to be a big Sublime user (and then Atom for a bit), but recently I've been using PHPStorm. Jeffrey's Laracasts series on it helped me overcome my fear of over-bearing IDEs. Thanks Jeffrey!

I also use iTerm2 (oh-my-zsh) and a selection of personal dot-files (for things like aliases and system settings). I use Chrome to -test- browse and iTunes to keep my company.

If You Could Be A Superhero, What Superpowers Would You Want?

I guess flying would be cool. Elijah would really enjoy that, and I could go to conferences ALL THE TIME. “Thanks for the great talks guys WOOOOOOSH“



8

MAKS SURGUY

I am a Ukrainian, moved to the USA with my parents and brother when I was 17 years old. Before I moved here I was a professional breakdancer by night and studied programming by day at a local college. After coming to the US I've earned bachelors in Computer Science while working in IT for a school district. Recently my wife and I moved to Seattle area from Southern California and we are enjoying the new adventures and the new opportunities that come up here.

One of my pastimes in my teen years was browsing well-designed websites made with Flash. I started making my own Flash websites (wasn't very good at it) and some of them required backend code. Building flash-powered guestbooks/blogs and file up-loaders made me learn a backend technology and that's how I met PHP many many years ago. After getting my CS bachelors I quit IT field and switched to web development full time.

Do You Remember How You First Came Across Laravel And What You Made You Start Using It?

It was love at first sight (please, don't tell my wife). It was April of 2012. I was a part of a small startup and my responsibility at the time was finding a framework that would power our application. I decided to make a list of 20-30 frameworks (not just PHP), try them all and see which one gets me to my goals the fastest. Most frameworks I couldn't even install but out of those that worked right away, Laravel (v3) blew me away and within an hour I had built a small blogging app. I was sold on Laravel's intuitive syntax, MIT licensing and the promise of "enjoying the fresh air".

You Grew Up In The Ukraine. Was It A Culture Shock Moving To The US?

It was a complete transformation for everybody in my family. Language, food, weather, money, friends, home, everything was different. Southern California is known for its latino population and in Ukraine there aren't many other cultures blended together like here in the US so it was difficult to be a minority.

Despite the hardships and the culture shock, like many other immigrants my family has adjusted well and with God's help has built a successful life here, on the other side of the planet.

How Is Your Book Coming Along? Do You Have A Release Date Yet?

I have two books in the process.

One is about integrating front-end components into web applications and it shows the back end developers how to integrate date pickers, tagging, spinners, AJAX contact/registration and login forms, AJAX uploaders and more. This book has over 200 pages and is scheduled to be released by July 12. The 170+ readers of the book have been extremely happy with its content.

The other book is called “Laravel in Action” and I am currently in process converting the book from Word to Markdown format. The book features over a hundred diagrams, tables and code samples to help developers understand how to get started building applications with Laravel. Some of the chapters of “Laravel in Action” will be published on my blog and on Leanpub by mid-July. Both books will be available on Leanpub under my name msurguy when they are completed.

You Release New Sites Like Every Other Week, How Do You Find The Time?

About a year ago I have decided to work 4 days a week and have the Fridays off to work on my own projects. That one extra day allowed me to maintain Bootsnipp, publish a PhoneGap video course on Tuts+ and start writing “Laravel in Action”.

Over the months the income from my own projects has matched the income I would get from work and I was able to quit my full time job all together to focus on my blog, books and transforming own ideas into websites. I bring a sketchpad with me wherever I go. In it I sketch out the user interfaces for the ideas I have and outline enough detail to allow me building a prototype for the idea. My wife and I travel a lot; I use the time spent in transit to make lots of sketches and concrete steps to build my next idea.

When I get home I quickly build a prototype of the website and release it after I get to MVP stage (minimum viable product). I have over 30 projects already released and another 10+ still in the sketch phase. My latest one built with Laravel and de-

ployed with Forge is called “PanoPanda.co“. It allows people to share large scale photos(panoramas) with friends and family while retaining full ownership of the photos.

My typical day consists of about 1 hour catching up with social media, working 2-3 hours at my part time job (building websites for another company), another 2-3 hours are spent working on one of the books or blog posts and the rest of the work day is devoted to one of the many projects including Bootsnipp. The time after 7pm is family/friends time – hanging out with my wife, watching TV, playing boardgames. I often work on Saturdays if we are not traveling and can get quite a lot done when I turn off all distractions.

Outside Of Web Development And Break Dancing Do You Have Any Other Hobbies?

Over the years I’ve had a fair share of interests. When I was 7 I discovered a stash of my dad’s technical magazines. No, they were not about women. Mind you, these were sort of “Wired” of its day. I think reading these magazines and my dad’s wide worldview have inspired me to be passionate about technology, innovation and moving the world forward.

My dad taught me how to solder when I was 10 and I have built many interesting devices like RC-circuits, robots and FM-transmitters since. I have a strong understanding of electronics/schematics and years of experience building extremely small circuits without the use of any special tools. This skill came in handy when I got into building RC airplanes that could be flown inside of a house/gym. My personal record is building an extremely lightweight infrared remote control system for a micro Spitfire. You can see it on my blog [here](#). The total weight of the electronics on the plane is under 100 milligrams (0.1g!!!). I have built a few dozen micro airplanes completely from scratch, from start to finish (receiver/transmitter/body/design/etc) and they all fly.

I have built bigger RC planes as well and have strapped cameras on them long before drones became mainstream. My other hobbies include: large scale panoramic photography, BEAM robotics, programming Arduino, 3D printing and 3D modeling.

If You Could Be A Superhero, What Superpowers Would You Want?

Flying like Superman would be number one for me. I've gone skydiving and that came pretty close. Another one would be teleportation because there are a lot of places I'd like to see and some of them are very remote.



9

KAYLA DANIELS

I started playing with websites when I was about 13. I still remember the first website I ever built. I-frames were the hot new thing back then and I made liberal use of them. The site itself was just a personal website, and being that I was 13 I didn't have a whole lot to put on it, but I will never forget the feeling. The first time I hit save, then loaded the file in my browser and saw that the random words I typed made real things- It felt like magic. I had all the power in the world and I could build things.

I got my first developer job at a newspaper in Colorado Springs. My job was mainly Joomla and WordPress development. As that job was coming to an end I had a friend of mine call asking if I could build a custom web application for a client. I said yes, took the job, and then taught myself what the heck MVC was, and how to use CodeIgniter.

Do You Remember How You First Came Across Laravel? What Made You Stick Around?

Laravel kept coming across my doorstep, and it was persistent about it. It showed up on stack overflow, on my twitter and in google searches. Honestly, the first few times I looked at it, I didn't like it at all. I was very comfortable in CodeIgniter, and I was good at what I was doing. Laravel was such a departure from that that I didn't even want to bother with it.

It wasn't until I started really digging and learning about testing, design patterns and the principles of good architecture that I finally fell in love with it. What I love most about Laravel is that it doesn't force itself on you. There is no 'Laravel' way of doing things. You can put files wherever you like, and use them however you like.

That said, I do feel like it encourages you to build things in a way that's easy to read, understand and, most importantly, extend.

You Gave A Lightning Talk At Laracon About Your Code Manifesto. Can You Share Some Details Behind This?

The Code Manifesto grew out of some growing frustrations I had, being a girl in the tech community. I've experienced, seen and heard of a lot of discrimination in our field, not just at women, but at minorities in general. There are some really bad cases of harassment, misogyny or racism, and those get talked about a lot. They're horrible, and they shouldn't happen. I think there's another classification of discrimination that happens too, and gets less mention. These are the little things, the subconscious things that people think and say and don't ever give a second thought to.

For instance, I've had several people tell me something along the lines of "Hey, you're good at what you do, it's a pleasure to work with you. You're the first girl I've

worked with, and I was pleasantly surprised.” Obviously, these people aren’t trying to be jerks. They’re complimenting me, but in that compliment is the message that they had the preconceived notion that I wouldn’t be good at my job, simply because I’m a girl.

The combination of blatant harassment and subconscious discrimination together make the tech industry an less than inviting place for minorities to be. I’ve heard of a lot of girls who get started down the path we’re all on, and then turn back early on because of these things. These are things that can be fixed, and addressed. Things that -should- be fixed and addressed.

After looking at the state of our field now, and envisioning what I’d like our tomorrow to look like, I saw a possible path connecting the two. I set out to start building that path, or at least attempting to. The Code Manifesto is that, an attempt to start building the kind of environment I’m proud to work in, that I’d be proud to have my daughter work in, some years in the future. At its core, it’s nothing more than a set of values that equate, more or less, to common sense and respect.

There’s a website for it here: <http://codemanifesto.com>, as well as a twitter account. It’s also on github and PRs are welcome.



Kayla's Desktop

You Recently Switched To A Mac. How Are You Finding It? What Are The Apps You Use Daily?

I LOVE my mac. This is the second mac book I've owned. I had a 15" MPB a few years ago and ended up getting rid of it. Since getting rid of that mac, I gained a real disdain for apple in general. I vowed I would never own a i-Anything, or another mac computer.

Laracon was the thing that really made me want to switch. I was one of maybe 3 Windows users in the room, so I was pretty much staring at a sea of mac screens. I was able to watch how people were using them and the workflow was so smooth, so quick, so easy. Couple that with the nightmares I'd been having with the Windows console, and I was ready to switch. The day after I got home from Laracon, I bought a 13" retina MBP.

I use chrome, terminal, textual, github for mac, slack, alfred, inky (for email), tweetdeck and PhpStorm most often.

Outside Of Web Development Do You Have Any Other Hobbies?

I'm a big foodie. I love to cook. Well, really, I love to eat. Cooking just allows me to eat good things. I'm also a big fan of craft beer. Outside of that, I have 3 kids and I spend most of my non-dev time with them.

If You Was Stranded On A Desert Island What Three Things Would You Bring?

A knife, something to start a fire and a water bottle. Because I'm boring, but practical.



10

CHRIS FIDAO

I've always been doing some sort of web development since I was young. My father (a graphic designer) starting doing web development when everything turned from paper to the internet, so there were always some HTML books lying around the house. I think I made my first web page when I was in 6th grade or so. I never got beyond HTML though, I'm surely not the Hacker News stereotype of programming since I was in the womb.

I didn't really do anything passed that (other than playing video games) until I had some college courses which caused me to dig up some old HTML knowledge and add a bit to it.

I learned some programming in college courses but didn't really learn anything until I graduated. However, before I graduated – right before senior year, I had a terrible internship in a corporate behemoth. That was really informative – in that it let me know that I didn't want to work in that kind of environment.

When I graduated I moved back home. Since I didn't have any idea other than what I didn't want to do, I gravitated towards something I always liked doing – web pages!

Using the really incredibly basic programming skills I picked up in college, I “worked full time” absorbing lynda.com videos. I never use it anymore, but Action-Script 3 is still my most favorite language – event-driven, “real OOP”, lots of cool math to use. Anyway, I sat in front of my computer and got yelled at by mom (“Get some exercise!”) for months before finding my first job at a (then small) marketing agency doing a bunch of LAMP development (My face is still on their careers page!).

That's about it – I kept up with the self-learning and also learned a ton on the job, as you will when working under deadlines!

You Run A Very Popular Newsletter, Servers For Hackers. What Made You Decide To Start This?

I was a stereotypical PHP developer for a long time – I knew PHP and JavaScript, and that's about it. I used WAMP/MAMP exclusively and was scared of the console (“Who uses a console??”). But over the years, I've run into so many times where a lack of server knowledge (and really, general programming knowledge) caused real problems.

This was especially poignant one late night/early morning when deploying a large application to a scaled infrastructure (load balanced web servers and clustered MySQL). I wasn't aware of all the gotchas of a distributed environment at the time, and as you might imagine, that completely ruined by already hectic night! It was probably 11pm when that happened on a test-run in production. We finished around 5am.

This experience was the true genesis of my So You Got Yourself a Load Balancer article, which I wrote a year or two later.

It was sometime after that experience that I started digging into other languages and eventually made a conscious effort to learn “the server stuff”.

Having this type of experience led to me realize that there is a gap in resources for all the people in similar position as my past self – those just getting started into the server world, and especially PHP developers who can go through an entire career without ever having to learn the server stuff. That’s an example of PHP’s power, but ends up being detrimental on those nights when there’s no tech support to help you through your issues!

I started by writing a lot about servers and code on fideloper.com but eventually I decided to start serversforhackers.com to help spread knowledge about servers specifically.

Now anytime I’m doing something new (in unfamiliar languages or in servers), I have a markdown file open and I record every server command or “gotcha” I run into. That way I have articles and reference ready for my future self. I also use Evernote extensively to save any useful resources on specific topics. I can’t emphasize enough how helpful that habit has been to me!

How Do You See Web Development Changing Over The Next 5 Or 10 Years?

“More mobile” is a cliche, but developing for mobile (apps or web) is definitely a growing trend. Cheap (Android?) smart phones are going to explode in emerging markets, if they haven’t already. If that’s a persons primary means of interfacing with the internet, that means there will be a lot of people attempting to make money in the mobile sphere.

Servers are becoming more and more of a commodity. We’re seeing more and more services built around them (Forge!). This makes larger and more complex infrastructures more obtainable, but also means our “sphere of required knowledge” (so to speak) will need to grow!

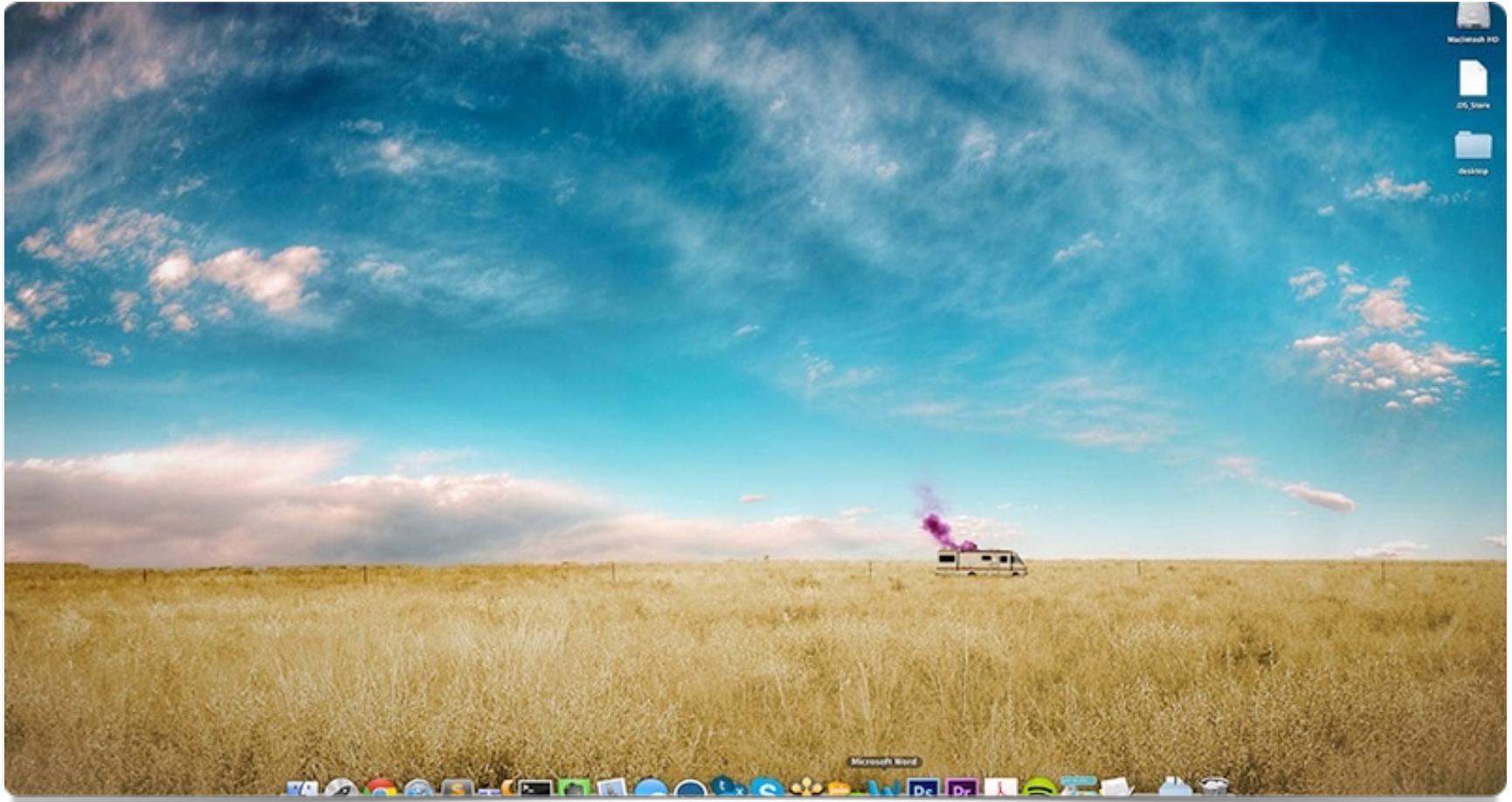
I'm also hoping CSS gets more and more powerful – it's very nice to have CSS take the place of otherwise expensive Javascript. Since even the most outdated browsers are starting to modernize, this is one area I'm finally hopeful for.

What's interesting to see is how so many “native” application SDKs (Mac OS with xCode/Objective C, Android and Java) can be replaced with web-languages and then processed into “native” applications – for instance, Phonegap, Titanium and Appcelerator. I'm not sure this means web applications will be taking over native, compiled applications, but it's interesting that these markets have come up for those with “web-language” experience (Javascript!). So many people know how to code now! Especially in the high-level languages (Javascript, Python, Ruby, PHP).

You Go To Bed Early Right? What Is Your Typical Daily Routine?

Yeah, I seem to. I go to bed somewhere around 11pm. I make an effort not to stay on the computer too late – My brain just gets fried after so many hours. I really believe in the idea that we only get around 4 hours per day of actual productivity. I try to beat that by changing what I'm doing during the day (Customer support versus coding versus writing and side projects), but who knows if that's a reality or not!

I usually finish work, get food and hang out, and then somewhere later I'll squeeze in an hour or 2 for catching up on things, testing out ideas, or writing for serversforhackers.com and other ideas I have. I usually read before going to bed – sometimes fiction and sometimes technical books.



Breaking Bad Desktop

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

I'm a Mac user, but I used to use Windows. Once I got a better idea of how Linux works (and realized where our applications went when in production), I started using Macintosh. Their system is the closest I can get to a Linux server and still have all the tools I need like Adobe and Microsoft Office products. I still use virtual machine almost exclusively for development though. I'm super anal about installing unneeded development software (especially any long-running processes like a database or web server).

This means that the actual benefit of a Macintosh over a Windows server (for me) is the ability to have common *nix command line tools available natively. I could technically do it all inside of a virtual machine, but I do actually like Mac's OS better overall.

For development, I used to use Sublime Text, and I had a good round of Vim + Tmux. I still keep up on Vim and terminal-based tools for when I'm inside of servers. I'm primarily in PHPStorm now, however.

I also make heavy use of Chrome, 1Password, Evernote, HipChat, Skype, Terminal (plus tabs and often some tmux sessions), Vagrant (always vagrant!) and occasionally Textual for maximum IRC distractedness.

And of course there's Adobe products and Microsoft Office stuff – they're always necessary.

There's so much going on in "the internet" that I'm fairly convinced that I've gotten onset adult ADD or something. I listen to Spotify a lot when I'm trying to zone into something. Having a nice heavy set of headphones and a decent playlist helps me concentrate now, whereas, I didn't used to need that. (Isn't that supposed to go the opposite way?)

My desktop rotates between messy and minimal. Right now I have a folder called "desktop" on my desktop which has a fair amount of crap on it :D. Also, you might notice that I have set my Mac set to show hidden files. No more hiding .htaccess files on me, Mac!

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside Of The Computer?

I also breathe and sleep a lot, if that counts? [Who has hobbies outside of computers?] I'm probably really unbalanced...

But I play mediocre soccer and guitar as well! To those ends, I have both the soccer ball I found in my parents garage and a Fender Strat (American), which I didn't find in my parents garage. It's funny though, I took lessons for guitar and learned it like I learn a lot of programming stuff – heavy on the theory and light on the practical. I know all sorts of scales and modes but only a few songs.

I also help (along with a bunch of great people) some local meet ups – if you're a developer in CT, check out newhaven.io!

I should mention writing here as well. While I write almost exclusively on computer-related topics (blogging, newsletters, notes to myself), it comes from enjoying writing and (apparently) making content people find useful.

If You Was Stranded On A Desert Island What Three Things Would You Bring With You?

Can you plan ahead for being stranded on a desert island? Like, can I bring a helicopter with me and just fly home?

Either way, here's the definitive list of things to bring along when stranded on a desert island:

- Tom Hanks
- Book on philosophy that take tons of readings to comprehend (I got the time finally, right? Might as well try to be like Captain Picard).
- **Everything Dwight says**



11

MATT STAUFFER

I'm from Ann Arbor, Michigan, I live in Gainesville, Florida, and I spent a few incredible years in Chicago. Also, my wife's from Miami. So I'm a Midwesterner living in the South married to an incredible part-Southern-part-whatever-Miami-is woman. We have an almost-two-year-old son who's cooler than I am and a tiny little furry black dog.

My brother and I ran a Renegade BBS from our family's spare bedroom when I was in middle school. He ran the tech, and I drew the ASCII interfaces using The-DRAW. So, even from day one I wanted to help people use computers. Over the years, I've realized I'm much better at—and more interested in—making things work well than I am in making them look good.

I started in front-end (HTML/CSS/JS) development, moved eventually into PHP and then CodeIgniter and ExpressionEngine, and I've been working with Rails (a little) and Laravel (a lot) for the last year or two. I'm still more of a front-end guy—responsive Sass, hand-crafted JavaScript, that kinda stuff—than a backend guy, but I'm learning.

In school I studied English (creative writing), and I worked for a non-profit for five years doing decidedly non-techy stuff, but I'm currently Partner and Technical Director at Tighten Co. and Founder/CEO at Karani.

How'd You First Find Laravel And What You Made You Start Using It?

I don't know for sure how I first heard about Laravel, but I know for sure that Jeffrey Way was the person who got me really interested. I've long held the opinion that he's one of the best, if not the best, teachers on the Internet, so I avidly followed his videos when he was at Tuts. I'd heard of Laravel, but I'd also heard of a half dozen other potential CodeIgniter successors; but Jeffrey's insistence that Laravel was it was what got me really involved. We were actually looking deeply into switching the core of our shop to Rails at that point.

For me, I work with a variety of clients, with a variety of needs and levels of technical competence, and I have developers working with me at varying levels (and areas) of development experience. I wanted a system that is not purely optimized for one level of geekdom or another, and it was clear to me immediately that Laravel provides the capabilities and practices for advanced developers but the kindness, community, and simplicity that will help beginner and intermediate devs to use it well, too.

Also: When I realized that learning Laravel had made me a better developer—that creating a positive and beneficial developer experience was a core part of Taylor’s vision—I was sold.

What Makes You So Happy And You Have Any Advice For The Grumpy Devs?

Ha! Well, I think there are a few pieces to that question. Most simply, genetics: My mom is probably the happiest and kindest person you’ve ever met. My dad’s also a great and friendly guy, but my mom is extraordinarily friendly and happy. I think I’ve always been pretty happy without trying.

For me, all grumpiness comes from focusing on myself.

But there’s another piece. I grew up Lutheran, and Lutherans (among others) hold to a tradition called Lent; as a part of Lent, people will often give up some pleasure or addiction for 40 days. I knew I was supposed to be nicer and happier—we’re taught to be content whatever the circumstances—and I knew I was neither nice nor happy, at least on average. So, I gave up being mean for Lent in my senior year of high school (and yes, it sounded as absurd then as it does now). But it totally transformed the way I experience life, and I just decided to try to keep it up.

For me, all grumpiness comes from focusing on myself. Either I’m only considering what I want in the situation, and I’m grumpy because I’m not getting my way—which means I need to let go of my own needs and desires and start valuing others more—or I’m nervous or insecure about how people perceive me and I use my grumpiness as a shield to keep me from getting hurt. Honestly, the grumpiest people I know really just need more love and affirmation... and hugs... so, if you’re grumpy, I would just say: You’re great. I like you, even if I don’t know you. Let’s be friends.

What Is Your Typical Day Like?

Wake up at 6:30, sneak past my sleeping family and set up in the living room with my Bible. At 7 or 7:30 I make breakfast (some days my wife makes me hot break-

fast and I'm pretty sure I'm the ruler of the world), and I'll usually have breakfast with my family before I bike 1.25 miles into my office, which is a tiny little office containing only me for the moment (but I'm hoping to move to a coworking space.)

I usually start my day with email, looking over my schedule, making a task list. Watch a Laracasts or another dev video. Get some work done before our West Coast clients get in, address any emails from our European contractors and clients, do a little bit of dev work. For lunch I either walk over to a restaurant with whatever latest programming book I'm reading, meet up with friends, or work on my side gig (Karani). Afternoons tend to be meetings with my developers, clients, or business partner Dan, and I sneak as much work as I can in. I'm usually out the door by between 5 and 5:30, bike home, and I get a good hour or two to play with my son and my dog, help my wife with dinner, and just hang out with the family.

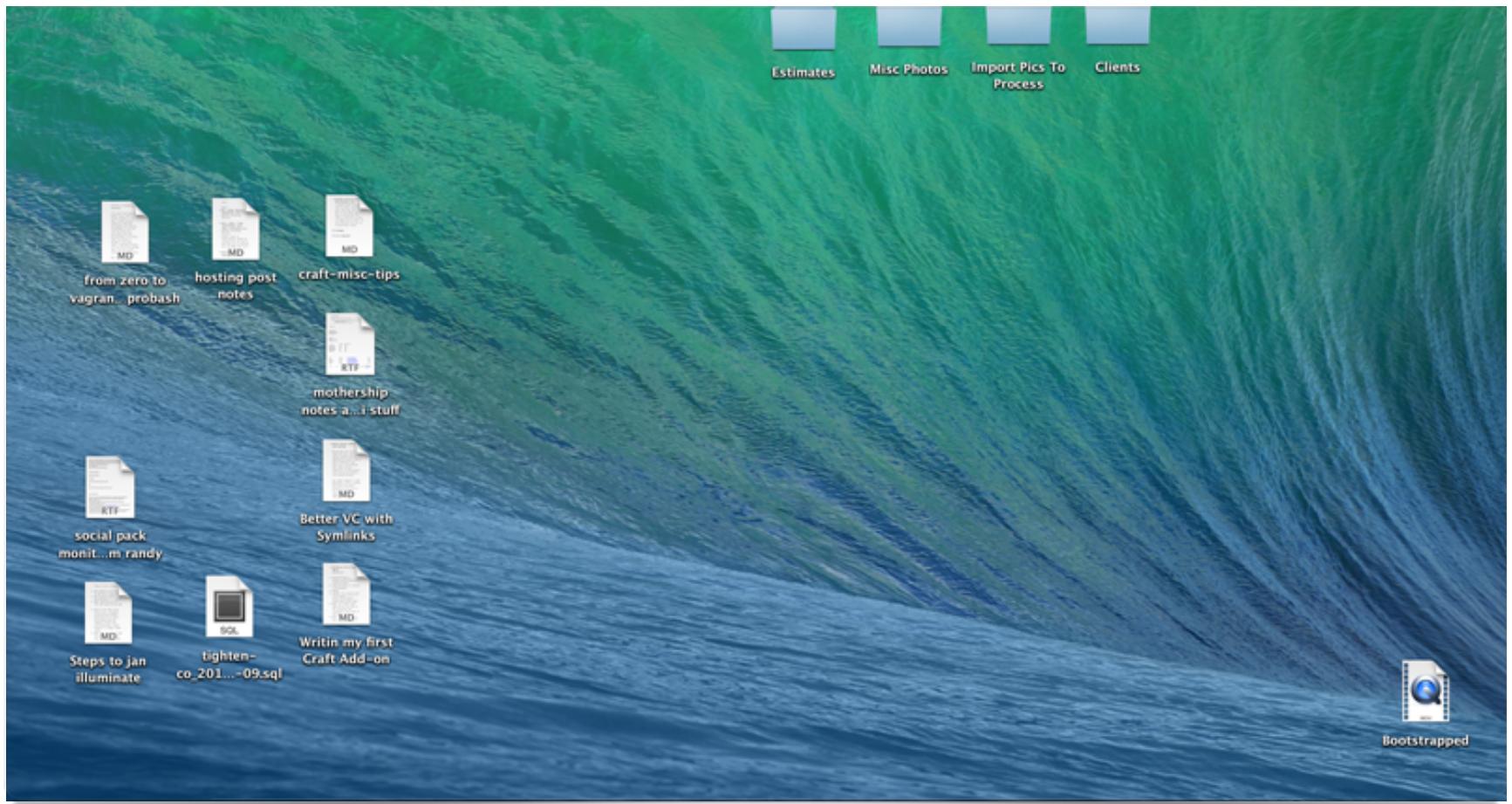
Right now my wife takes care of my son during the day, so I take responsibility for him in the evenings and put him down for bed, which is usually 8:30-9:00ish. Then it's time with my wife, doing dishes, cleaning the house, working on Karani, going to the gym, and whatever else I can sneak in before it's time to start it all over again.

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside Of The Computer?

Too many. I used to do a lot of photography, but now I just shoot the occasional cute family photos.

I play bass guitar, occasionally professionally but usually just at church or conferences. If I ever have more time, I'm probably going to get back into playing bass more, and maybe even set up a little studio at my house. I've always had a dream of buying an upright bass and learning to play that too...

I have a few friends who are into carpentry, and creating something real with my hands is amazing. I keep saying I'm going to pick that up, too.



Matt's Desktop

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Setup. What Apps Do You Use Everyday?

Sure! I'm on a Retina 15" MBP, latest model—I used an Air for years but it just wasn't quite powerful enough to run my dozens of tabs, Photoshop, an IDE, chat, etc. Plus, it only had a single monitor output, which was terrible. I have my MBP on a stand next to my external 1080p monitor, but I'm on the verge of buying two new displays and mounting them above my desk. Apple Magic Trackpad, Apple wired keyboard. M-Audio studio speakers.

I had a Humanscale Float Table for a few weeks, and then it broke, and then its replacement broke, so I'm back to a normal person sitting desk. I'm not tough enough for a full-time standing desk so I'm still dreaming of a convertible desk one day. Maybe a NextDesk.

I live in PHPStorm (formerly Sublime Text) and Vim, iTerm2, Sequel Pro, MAMP Pro and Vagrant, Campfire (buddies) and Slack (work) and Adium (clients) and Textual for IRC (#laravel), Tweetbot for Twitter... I write with iA Writer and Marked, I use Concentrate to make myself get stuff done and Breaktime to make myself stop getting stuff done, Things for when I'm organized enough to manage my tasks, iTunes and Rdio for music and Busycal for calendar.

Oh, menu bar apps! Screenhero for pairing, Dropbox, TextExpander, 1password, Quickcast, CloudApp, Day One, Crashplan, f.lux, and Bartender to keep it all sane.

I use Chrome for development. I want to use Firefox because of privacy but always get too irritated with the UI and speed; I want to use Safari because of speed and the tight integration but always get too irritated with the UI and the weaker dev tools.

I have 7 Google/Google Apps email accounts (!!?) and I manage them with Mailplane. I wish I had a better solution but I don't.

If Your Life Was Made Into A Movie, Who Would You Like To Play You?

Ha! Well, when I wore my hair short I was often told I looked like the younger brother from Prison Break or like Channing Tatum (but, of course, less Hollywood/muscle/etc.), so I'm guessing they would be natural choices.

However, neither of them strike me as wildly flexible actors. I'm not stoic enough to be the Prison Break guy and not "bro" enough to be Channing Tatum... And, my wife absolutely can't stand Channing Tatum, so that's not an association I think I want to make.

My wife thinks I look like Matt Damon (this shows you how much she loves me) and Sam Jaeger. I've never watched Sam act much, but I don't think I can get away with claiming Matt Damon, so let's go Sam Jaeger. Yes.



12

PHILIP BROWN

I'm 26 years old and I come from Durham, a small town in the North East of England. If you've seen the Harry Potter films, a lot of the outdoors bits were filmed in the area.

I first got in to development when I stumbled upon Geocities (R.I.P). It blew my mind that I could make a page and then anyone in the world could see it. I was pretty much hooked from then on. Once I outgrew the Geocities WYSIWYG editor I discov-

ered that websites were made in HTML and CSS. I've basically just been stumbling along trying to pick up what I can ever since.

What Do You Find Most Interesting About Development?

The thing I find the most interesting about development is just the fact that I can write stuff into a text editor and then make it do whatever I want. Honestly that still blows my mind even to this day.

I'm really thankful that I live in a time where I can write a website, make it available to anyone in the world and then make a living from it without asking anyone's permission.

I also think it's pretty amazing that you could spend every day of your entire life learning about development and still not learn everything. I kinda love the fact that every single day I oscillate between thinking I've mastered something, to feeling like I know nothing at all.

Culttt Has Become A Great Resource. Can You Tell Us More About The Site?

I decided I wanted to start writing a blog after reading Gary Vaynerchuk's "Crush It!" a couple of years ago. That book is like a total kick up the arse for making the most of the opportunity of the Internet.

For about 2 years I would write a post once every couple of months whenever I felt inspired. Some of the early posts are really cringingly bad and it pretty much got zero traffic.

Then for some reason I decided I would start taking it seriously. I was really inspired by what Chris Coyier and Chris Spooner had built with their blogs so I decided to set myself a schedule of posting three times a week.

Things really started to pick up when I started writing about Laravel. At the time I was struggling to think of topics to write about on a Monday. It's easier to write con-

sistently when one post leads logically to the next so I decided I would just document the process of building an entire open source application.

I had been using Laravel v3 for quite a while, but I was actually going to start creating the application in Rails or Meteor. However everyone and their dog has written tutorials for Rails, and Meteor felt like it was a little too bleeding edge to really pick up traction.

I knew Laravel was the right choice when I heard Phil Sturgeon being wax lyrical about it on his blog and the early videos Taylor was putting on Vimeo of version 4. It felt like a breath of fresh air compared to what I was used to with CodeIgniter and Zend 1.*. It was also an opportunity to jump in during the beta period so I could write a few posts before it officially launched. Fortunately the interest in Laravel has felt like it has skyrocketed since then, so I'm pretty happy I choose the right framework!

Is Culttt A Full Time Job For You?

No I still work full time, **Culttt** is just my side hustle. One of the things that Gary talks about in “Crush It!” is working on side projects such as a blog. It takes a lot of time to write the content and reply to emails and comments, but I think it will be all worth it in the end.

Ultimately I want Culttt to be a place where you can learn online business and development skills to turn your project idea into a real business opportunity. I think Jeffery Way’s Laracasts and the people at Treehouse and Code School do an amazing job with teaching new technologies, so I want to focus more on the skills needed to build an online business, rather than the technical intricacies of it all.

At the minute Culttt is in WordPress. I want to overhaul it and write my own content/community application at some point. I’ve definitely got big plans for the future for Culttt, but it’s just a blog at the minute.

What Is Your Typical Daily Schedule?

I usually get up at around 6:30am, have breakfast and get ready for work. Before leaving the house for work I’ll catch up on Twitter and the RSS feeds I subscribe to for

an hour. I usually get back in the house at around 5:30pm. I'll have something to eat and then do work on Culttt or something else until around 9:00pm. I then usually read for an hour or two. I use Instapaper and Reeder for iOS, so I've always got a huge queue of things to read.



Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

I've got a 15" Retina MacBook Pro running Mavericks. I use Chrome as my web browser, iTerm2 as my terminal, Vim as my editor, and iA Writer for my writing.

I usually save everything straight into DropBox and I've got all my random blog post ideas in Evernote. I also use Tweetbot as my Twitter client and I use Photoshop all the time too.

As you can see in the screenshot I'm pretty OCD about having a clean desktop and the bare minimum in the dock.

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside Of The Computer?

During University I was adamant that I was going to be a professional poker player. For pretty much the full three years I was at University I played poker every single day. I still play occasionally now, but nowhere near as much as I used to.

I guess it was my destiny to be sat down for long periods of time under artificial light!

Last One. If Tomorrow You Could Only Visit One Website, Which One Would You Pick And Why?

Hmm, I'd probably pick Twitter. I feel like Twitter is such an amazing way to be exposed to new stuff, find out what's going on in the world and keep up to date with the very specific things you are interested in.

And if I could bring back a website from the dead it would have to be Geocities. I would love to look back through all the websites I made when I was first starting out.

GRAHAM CAMPBELL

I'm currently 17 years old, and live in the North East of England. I'm about to start my final year of A- Levels taking maths, further maths, physics, and possibly chemistry. I've been writing software for 6 years now, and php for 2 years. I started off programming with vb.net, and later, java. I moved to php in search of writing truly useful software. My first year with php was without a framework, or any other libraries. I wanted to experiment with implementations myself without any outside input.

Just over a year ago, I came to a point where I was writing a large amount of abstractions on php's database libraries, and thought: "There's got to me a better way of doing this? Surely this has been done before?". Then I discovered Laravel 4.0 this time last year, and decided that, actually, I would embrace third party libraries. From that point on I've never looked back, but I'm pleased that I had initially done all that work myself, because I had learnt a lot along the way, and I don't think the time had been wasted.

With Laravel I Notice You Have Lots Of White Space And Code Standard Fixes. What Drives You To Do This?

Around the time I discovered Laravel, I was curious about other libraries, coding standards, and actually, how to go about using other people's libraries in my code. At my point of entry, we were getting PSR standards and more and more people were caring about testing, best practices, and using composer. I noticed that Laravel had inconsistencies with new lines at end of file, trailing whitespace, dodgy composer version constraints, inconsistent docblocks, and wanted to help sort it out. It's worth noting my contributions to Laravel do extend beyond whitespace fixes!

Laravel is at a point now where most of the inconsistencies are fixed, and I'm trying to ensure other pull requests don't introduce new issues. An issue popped up on Laravel's bug tracker the other day suggesting we need a more automated way to fix these, and alert contributors if they have cs issues in their pull. Currently, some people are complaining that they were getting too many emails due to me pointing out cs issues on people's pulls. An automated system would be preferred where we can use GitHub's status api to mark the commit as broken if it violates Laravel's coding standards. Scrutinizer CI was suggested, and I'm in favor of that; I use it on my php projects.

Looking At Your GitHub Profile You Have Lots Of Repos. How Do You Find Time To Work On All Of It?

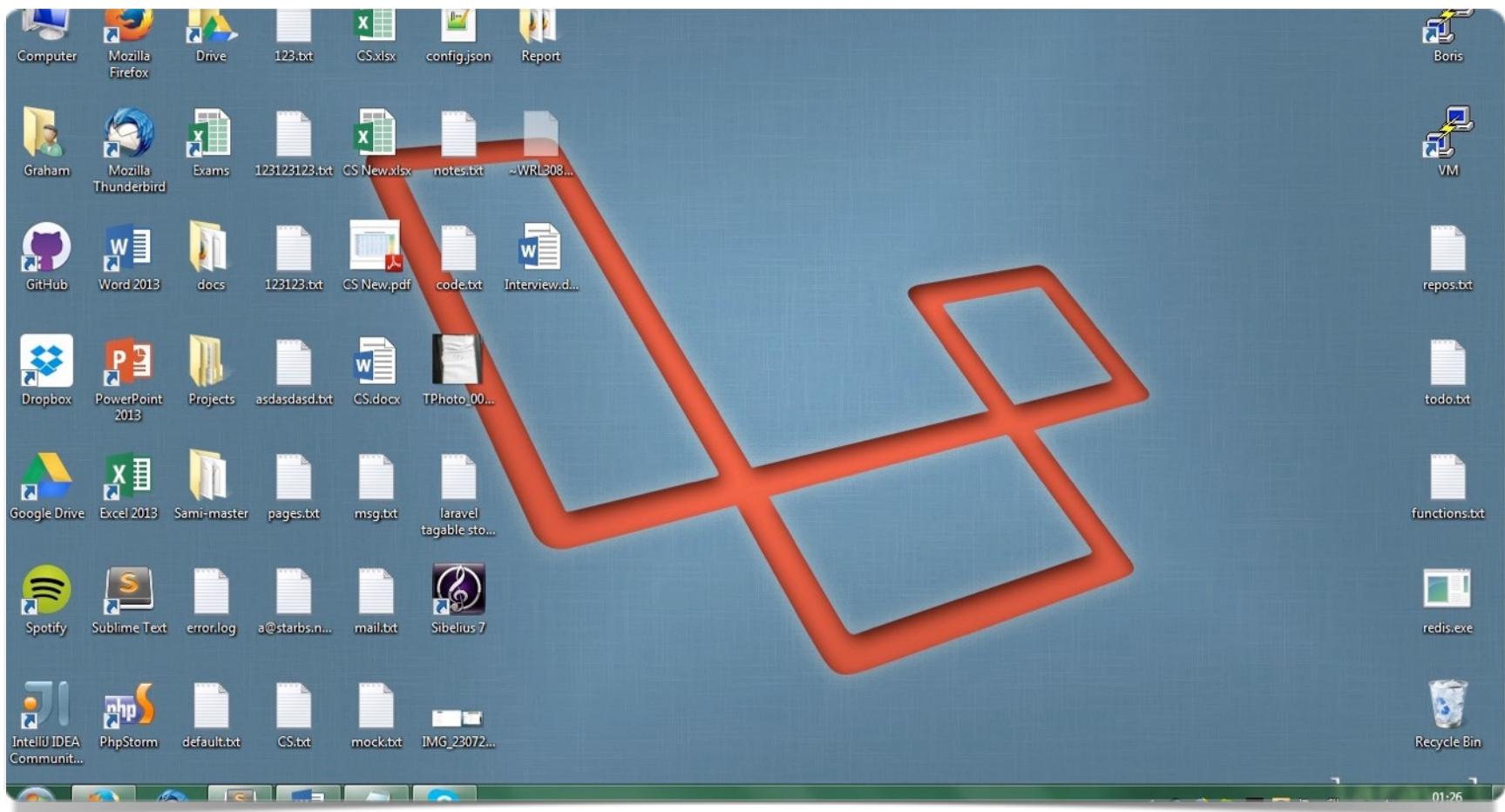
During term time, I normally have time in evenings and weekends to work on projects. During my outrageously long Holiday periods, I have large amounts of time to work on projects, so that's how I do it. I now have 37 repos on GitHub (excluding forks), and 23 of them are actively maintained php repos, available on Packagist. I

must have contributed to a few hundred projects on GitHub by now, and it's a shame GitHub has no way of giving me a complete list of the repos, because I'd be really interested to see it.

My flagship project is Bootstrap CMS. It's got around 230 stars right now. My other repos that have gained the most traction are my Laravel Markdown, Flysystem, HTMLMin, and Security packages. You can check out my GitHub for a full list.

What Is Your Typical Day Like?

A typical day during term time starts with me getting up at about 06:30, getting ready, and leaving for school at around 07:15. It's a 50 minute drive to my school in Durham. The day officially starts at 08:30, and ends at 16:30, but I'm often around until 18:00. I'm an avid drinker of Starbucks coffee, and there's one just down the road from the school, so that's a good place to go and relax. I've also pushed a few commits from that starbs too. I'll get home at around 19:00, eat, do some work, maybe write some code, reply to issues, spam whitespace pull requests, and watch a bit of telly.



Graham's Desktop

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Machine? What Apps Do You Use Every Day?

I'm a Firefox beta user, and I mainly write code in Sublime Text 3. I use Windows 7, and most of my work is done on my laptop. I've got a couple of Ubuntu 14.04 VirtualBox VMs set up where I test things on php 5.5 and hhvm. I also share a droplet with a friend, and can push code to it.

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside Web Development?

Besides drinking coffee, music is one of my hobbies. I have grade 8 clarinet with distinction and am working towards a diploma. I'm working towards grade 8 piano too. I heard that Taylor used to play the clarinet at school too (I think he mentioned it in a podcast). I tried golf a few years back. That was fun, but didn't last long. We ran out of space in the lake for my golf balls! I also spent a couple of years doing some coxing for my school boat club.



14

JESSE O'BRIEN

Growing up on a farm really taught me to have a high awareness of the world around me. I was constantly taught about how the innards of things worked. I was constantly asking why that tractor was torn apart, or why the oil needed changing. The same thing happened when my family ended up getting a computer fast enough to do some decent browsing with (shoddy 56k at the time). I spent a lot of time dodging my parents on the phone line like I'm sure so many other people did. At that point most of my time was still spent out wandering with my pellet gun or riding around bush trails

and the countryside on ATVs. The internet was still a big, complex mystery to me and was mostly controlled by my parents.

Out of actual necessity, through our farming business, we needed a better computer and a real 3-megabit wireless connection to monitor air quality on one of our farms. We piped that connection out 10km from town to a grain leg we owned, and I started traveling the depths of IRC. I was hooked. Being able to chat to people around the world in real-time was insane to me. It still is insane now that I reflect on it. I began a quest for knowledge and I still haven't stopped to this day. Being online is still pretty exhilarating to me. However I still try to spend as much time offline and hanging out at my parents as I can. It gives me a lot of good perspective on things. I've met and interacted with so many amazing people online through the years, and the Laravel community takes the absolute prize for being the best community I've had the privilege of being a part of.

When You Started Your Web Career What Was The Biggest Hurdles You Faced?

In all honesty, not having a community of people to learn from like I have now. I had a really large, arrogant ego when I was younger and not willing to ask anyone for help. My decisions were the best that could be, and I learned a lot of PHP back in the 4.4 days. After a while I was hacking the crap out of CodeIgniter when it first came out and stuffing thousands of lines of what I thought was good code into single controllers because the docs showed some routes in a controller. I've definitely heard similar stories. After a while I gained some perspective, dropped my arrogant attitude and things became a lot more fun.

My programming life is so much easier and more fun now that I have a huge community of people to pull experiences from and lean on when I need help or want to expand my knowledge on something. Needing help is something that's sometimes hard to admit, but leaning on this community and letting it lean on me has always been rewarding.

What Made You Make The Switch To Laravel?

I had a bit of a funny and quite public hissy fit in the #fuelphp IRC channel over some parts of the ORM that I just could not deal with, along with some other opinions I had on the way Fuel was being ran and coded (Tom Schlick can probably tell a good story about it). At this point I was actually sort of trial running Fuel as part of a rewrite I was doing off of CodeIgniter so I wasn't super attached to it.

After that display in IRC I spent a lot of time in the #laravel channel and I really loved what Taylor was doing. It helped a lot that he was on IRC just talking about the framework and getting feedback from a group of us, it felt awesome being that close to the actual inner workings of the framework. Taylor's really kept that up I think, that's one of the big successes of Laravel. There's a lot of collaboration and poking at it from tons of really smart people. He's still running the show fabulously but he has loads of help from the rest of the community.

Your Laravel Cheat Sheet Is Very Popular. What Made You Decide To Create It?

I felt jealous of other things that had cheat sheets. It actually sort of started as a joke, as things do. I was messing around in the IRC channel gawking at how good the annotated source of the Backbone docs was to look at.

At that point I think someone suggested it was something we lacked and I spent a little time one night smashing something together in an HTML file. I've still kept it in that one file instead of bloating it out. I want simplicity in case I want to take that file on a plane or put it on my phone or something. I still actually need to fix the PDF version, but who uses PDFs anymore right?

What Is Your Typical Day Like?

I usually get up and catch up on what's going on with all the people I know in Europe on Twitter. That's right before my son storms in the room and decides that he's now an astronaut on the bed. After that, head into work and get prepped for morning standup with my team. Usually that's a combination of going through yesterday's tickets that I worked on and making sure I present any useful details to the team. De-

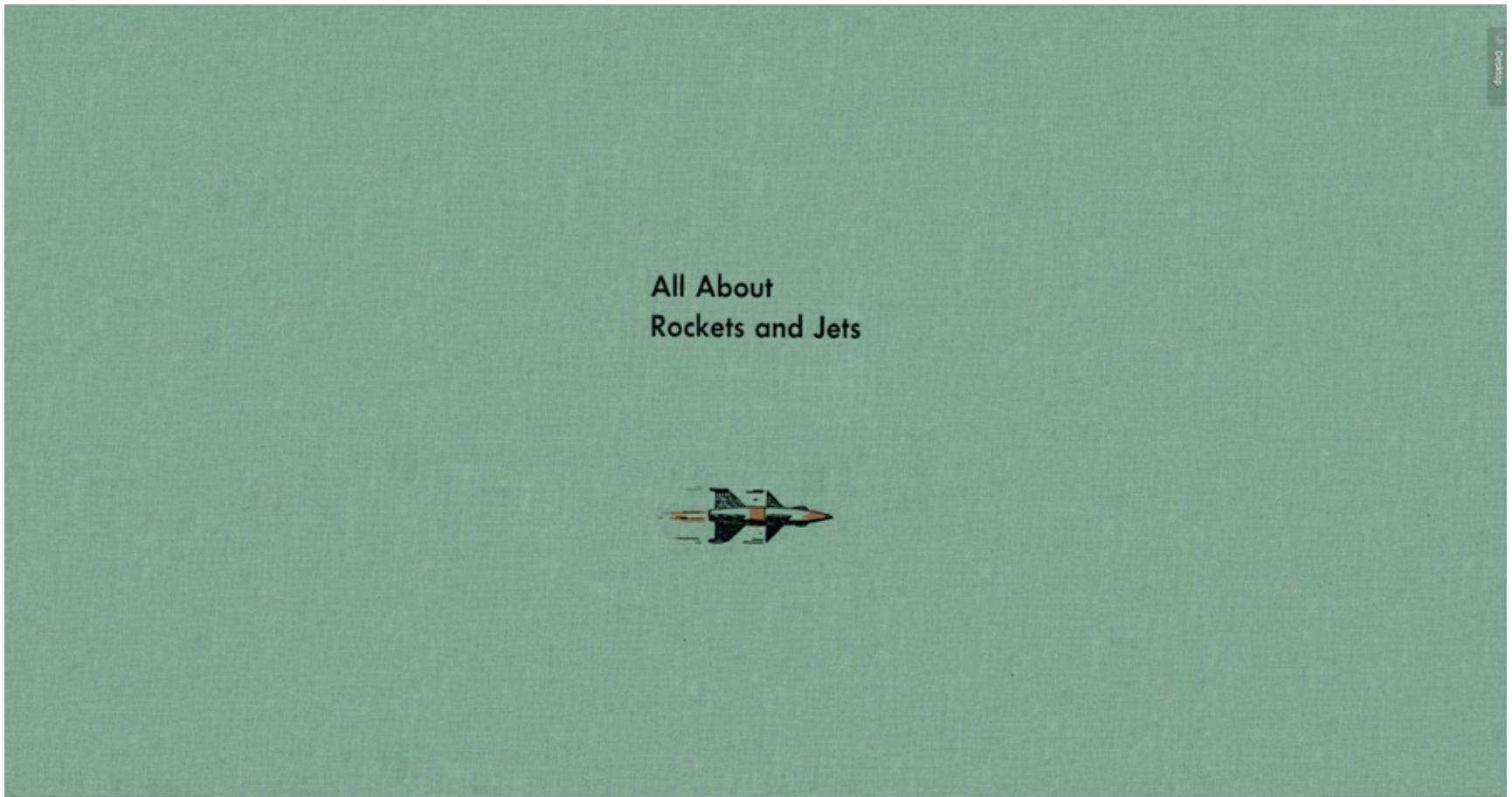
pending on how busy the day is I'll spend some time on IRC in the morning getting some quality discussion time in between stints of work.

I've actually helped my team in the last few months to become more collaborative with each-other. When I started there was a complete lack of communication going on and no one was taking the time to plan through things properly as a team. We now try to have little collab sessions throughout the day to talk in groups about the raw code we write. These sessions usually involve rolling ideas around like a big ball of clay and getting something great out the other end. I've found it makes everyone feel involved, empowered, and it solidifies designs so not just one person is off on their isolated journey of maintenance hell.

What Are Some Books That You Would Recommend To A Beginning Developer?

My number one right now is The Clean Coder by Robert C. Martin (Uncle Bob for some of you). I feel like where I'm at in my career I have a pretty in depth knowledge of my field but I have way less knowledge of how the hell to carry myself around and interact with others. This book would have definitely changed my path had I read it 5-6 years ago. Uncle Bob goes on a super deep dive on how to act as a professional in our industry. The perspective it gives is valuable for anyone who hasn't read it, beginner or veteran. The content is presented in such a way that it gets you really thinking about how you present yourself to others; other departments, other coders, clients, even your parents or friends. It's a great self-reflection book, I've read it once and I will for sure read it again.

Another would be the Design Patterns book by the gang of four. I've definitely found a lot of programmers will balk at design patterns and sort of ignore them as unneeded complexity. I've been through some trenches before and can tell you that some of the patterns in this book will save your ass once you get to the Hard Problems™. It's all with a grain of salt though, recognize the patterns for what they are and apply them when necessary, don't take it all as gospel.



All about Rockets and Jets - Jesse's Desktop

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

I run Arch Linux on my work machine with KDE installed as my WM. Very similar set up at home. I'm thankful I work at a place where they just gave me a machine and said "try not to physically damage it". I don't use many apps daily, almost all of my work is done in a terminal with vim, git, vagrant, redis, etc. I've noticed that the more I work in the terminal, the more productive I can be. I know some people love their IDEs, but I find my productivity highest when it's just me and a tmux session. I'm also still one of those (old school?) people that uses the Twitter website as my primary digestion for Twitter.

If You Could Be In A Sitcom Or Reality Show Which One Would You Want To Be In?

I'm going to break the rules here and say that I would love to have been in Seinfeld back in the day but right now I think Silicon Valley is being done extremely well.

Hopefully people consider it a sitcom? I do, whatever... haha. Mike Judge is nailing the culture we have and I would love to play a brogrammer or something in that show.



15

DRIES VINTS

I'm a 25-year old web developer currently living in Limburg, Belgium and working in Antwerp.

I think my first experiences I had with web development was almost 10 years back and consisted of writing some basic web pages for an online gaming community called "Bunkergaming" which I was member of. I got to learn some basic HTML and CSS with that and also some JavaScript. Besides that I also played a game called

“Hearts of Iron II” a lot back then which offered quite an extensive modification tool kit which enabled you to modify the source code of the game so you could tune it the way you want. I used to tinker with it a lot. Those two were definitely some of the things which got me into web development.

When I left high school I enlisted in college for a course called “Communication and Multimedia Design”. But I quickly noticed that I didn’t belong there. You got so much theoretically stuff and very little practical learning. Studying that much wasn’t really spend on me so it wasn’t big of a surprise that I dropped out of college at the end of the year. Frankly, I never looked back. Two months later I enrolled in a program for a small basic course closely to home which thought the basics of web development. I learned more from those 4 months then an entire year at college. I got much more practical knowledge and the 6-week internship we had to do at the end of the course landed me my first job.

After 4 years working at an agency in Antwerp and 6 months at a small agency in Limburg I got a new job at BeatSwitch in Antwerp. BeatSwitch is a startup which offers a platform to artists, agencies and promoters to manage everything about their business. Although the job sometimes requires irregular working hours I really love my job here. Awesome co-workers, a great place to work (center of Antwerp) and exactly the kind of work I love to do which is working on a SaaS application.

How Did You First Find Laravel?

I first discovered Laravel when we were in need of replacing our old legacy framework at my first job with a dedicated PHP framework. We had a look at the most prominent ones and eventually spent some time trying out CodeIgniter. While it was a good framework at the time, it didn’t took long before I stumbled onto Laravel.

Something which immediately caught my attention with Laravel was its elegant coding style and the easiness of getting started on coding with the framework. It didn’t took long before we decided to use Laravel for our future projects.

I was in luck because at the time when I started out with Laravel, which was by the end of 2012, version 4 was about to hit beta and we were going to start on a new large project which I’d be developing on for several months. Since Laravel 4 would hit a stable release soon I decided to start building the project on top of the Laravel 4

beta. It was a great choice because it enabled me to program the project fast and in the meantime contribute to the Laravel 4 beta because I was using it to actively build a real project. I really learned a lot during that period.

You Run A Very Popular Newsletter “Laravel Weekly”. Can You Tell Us How That Got Started?

Laravel Weekly started out as a weekly blog back in March, 2013 where I was sharing all things I learned from using the Laravel 4 beta. The early posts are still up there on my blog. After a while I started talking with Shawn McCool about posting them on the Laravel IO website and soon enough Laravel Weekly moved to Laravel IO.

Because the blog posts started to receive more and more attention the most logical step for moving forward was creating a newsletter format which would exist alongside the blog posts. It was a good decision because the current newsletter counts no less than 2600 subscribers. The blog posts at Laravel IO stopped for the moment because the Laravel IO platform is currently going under an extensive overhaul.

I know a lot of people must be wondering what happened to Laravel Weekly in the past few months because it's been quite a while since I posted a new issue. Maintaining a weekly newsletter which you run for free and put so much time into each week can get tiresome fast. Finding the energy to write a new issue each week can be exhausting when you have a lot of other things on your mind. Until recently I also worked as a part-time freelancer. Combining this all with doing open-source work and still trying to have time for a personal life leaves very few time for other things.

Because I recently took over the management of Laravel.IO I've decided to put Laravel Weekly on hold for now. My plan is to make Laravel Weekly an integral part of Laravel.IO. If everything goes as planned, Laravel Weekly will return bigger and better than ever before.



Dries Desktop

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

I used to be a real Sublime Text 2 addict but then PHPStorm came along. It scared me off at first with its cluttered UI but after watching some screencasts (Laracasts, what else?) I tried it out and frankly I never looked back. A good IDE like PHPStorm will always wipe the floor with a text editor like ST when it comes to developing more rapidly. So yeah, PHPStorm is by far my most used app.

Besides PHPStorm I'm also a big Tower fan, which is a GUI for git. It's probably the most powerful git GUI application out there for Mac OS X. Tower really makes it ridiculous fast for you to do actions which you'd otherwise have to spend much longer on to type out on the CLI. Plus you get a great overview of your current changes. Tower 2 came out recently so definitely give it a try if you haven't yet.

For the rest I use Iterm2 for CLI duties, Sequel Pro for MySQL database interactions and Transmit which is still the best FTP client for Mac OS X out there. I also bought Paw today for performing HTTP requests and inspecting them and it does a

mighty fine job at it. Could really recommend it for anyone who's looking for a good HTTP client.

As you can see from my desktop I'm eagerly anticipating the next OS X release. I thought of switching to Linux a couple of times but OS X makes it a joy to work in so I don't think I'll switch to anything else fast.

Can You Share What Your Typical Day Is Like?

My typical day starts at getting up at 6:30AM and catching my train at 7:30AM. I start working at our office in Antwerp at 9AM. During the day I mostly work on new features or perform maintenance on the BeatSwitch platform. My breaks vary from time to time during noon but I usually go out for a walk in downtown Antwerp and get lunch in one of the many food places across the city. It's a real joy to work in such a wonderful city. I leave work at 5:45PM and catch my train at 6:10PM. I get back home at 7:40PM, eat something and try to do some open- source work. At the end of the day I try to watch an episode or two of some series I follow (currently I'm watching The Sopranos) and usually go to bed at midnight. Needless to say, I'm having quite some hectic days but I love my job so that makes up for it. I also get to work 1–2 days at home each week so that really helps.

Because I quit my part-time freelance job recently I slowly have time again for the things I like to do like blogging more or contributing to Laravel. I'm slowly finding my pace at this so I hope I can get to that again soon enough.

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside The Computer?

Although I probably spend too much time on the computer as I should I still have a few outside-work hobbies.

When I go out I mostly go to hardcore shows (the band thing, not the rave thing) which are usually small club shows where a few local bands and the occasionally foreign band(s) play. The entire hardcore culture if something that's really grown to me over the past 8 years. It's kind of like a second home for me where the vibe is always good and you'll always meet some friends no matter which show you go to. It's also something that helped me go through a difficult period in my youth. Mostly quitting

drinking and becoming a vegetarian is something that gave me a lot of fresh perspective in life and a positive mental attitude to help me cope with life's hard times. So there's that.

I also love to collect vinyl records, which are mostly hardcore records. I'm getting better at BF4 on PS4 on a weekly basis but I bet I'd still get my ass whooped on 1vs1. I love to read as well. I'm a huge "A Song of Ice and Fire" fan which are really the best books I've read so far. Mostly reading Sci-Fi and Fantasy books. One day I'd really love to write a book of my own but that's for someday when I find time for it. Love to watch series as well, again mostly Sci-Fi and Fantasy although I love the occasionally drama as well. Band of Brothers is still the best series I've ever seen but Breaking Bad comes in on a very close 2nd place.

If You Could Be A Superhero, What Superpowers Would You Want?

To freeze time. Not to have extra time to do stuff but just to have some extra moments of quietness. So you can relax a bit more to make it through a day. Have that extra moment of quietness as a speaker before you address the crowd. Or just have that bit of extra time to enjoy a break.

Imagine what a joy that would be.



16

LORI BERKOWITZ

I am one of those shy developers hiding in the corner wearing a hoodie, but I also like people, so occasionally venture out to socialize with friends and meet with clients. I also love attending tech conferences and meetups where I get to meet people who get excited about the same things that I do. I've been a freelance web developer for almost 20 years and currently live in Baltimore (MD, US) with Karen, my awesome wife, who has graciously accompanied me to the last two US Laracons.

My first experience with programming was in high school. My dad had an Apple IIe and my school had a Commodore 64 and VIC-20. I learned BASIC, and later in college, Pascal. I didn't program again until about 10 years later when I got a Compaq mini-tower with a 100MHz processor and 8MB RAM. It came with Front Page Express pre-installed and I loved to make web pages in the visual editor and then see what the code looked like (not very pretty by today's standards). I eventually switched to Dreamweaver, and later a text editor (I think it was Notepad++). I learned CSS from Eric Meyer's books and an online class that covered the entire CSS 2.1 spec, and in 2002 got obsessed with tweaking open source PHP/MySQL CMSs and frameworks while testing a new reseller platform for iPowerWeb. Somewhere along the way, I picked up enough JavaScript to be productive (and a little dangerous) and learned PHP in a more OOP way than working with the CMSs had taught me. Since most of my work is back-end and I am not an awesome graphic designer, I also have a mild obsession with front-end frameworks and JavaScript libraries.

When Did You First Find Laravel, And What Made You Start Using It?

I first started using Laravel at version 3. I learn best by watching screencasts, and especially love Jeffrey Way's screencasts. I first learned about Laravel from him on Tuts+. I started playing around with it and loved it. I had tried other frameworks like Ruby on Rails, CodeIgniter, and Kohana, but never really got excited about them like I did about Laravel. Now it is my first choice for projects that cannot be done easily with WordPress or Drupal. Laravel was very refreshing after spending so many years working with CMSs. I think WordPress and Drupal are awesome, especially in their newest beta versions, but by design, neither is as flexible as Laravel.

Discovering the Laravel community was also pretty huge. I came for the code, but stayed for the community. Most popular frameworks have some kind of community built around them, and Laravel's is one of the best I have found. There are so many smart and generous people who have shared their knowledge, created amazing resources, and who always seem happy to help each other out. In a way, the community is just as important as the code. I have stopped using some great software due to the 'Read-the-source-code' nature of the community attached to it. Nothing against reading the source code, but that approach can be very alienating to people who are

I started the meetup hoping to meet other local Laravel developers so that we could learn from each other, teach each other, and talk shop.

new to your software, and especially alienating to folks who are new to programming in general.

You Also Started A Baltimore Laravel Meetup. Can You Tell Us More About It?

I started the Baltimore Laravel meetup in February 2013 hoping to meet other local Laravel developers so that we could learn from each other, teach each other, and talk shop. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find many locals interested in Laravel, so the meetup has not caught on much. Currently, I am trying to find a co-organizer for the group to help with finding speakers and attracting new members. If anyone reading this interview is in Baltimore and wants to know more about Laravel, look us up at <http://www.meetup.com/Baltimore-Laravel/>!

One good thing about Laravel being so awesome and gaining in popularity so quickly is that now, 18 months since I started the meetup, other people in the local PHP/dev community have started hearing about Laravel. Hoping that more people will become curious about it and join the group.

You Run BeeDragon Is That A Full Time Job?

I have been running BeeDragon since 1995 and it has been my full time job since 2004 when I officially registered it as a business. I do web development, hosting, consulting, and occasional design work. Most of my work is custom WordPress development. I work mostly with small to medium sized businesses and non-profit organizations. Hoping to someday find a business partner who can take care of the business and project management side of things.



Lori's Desktop

Can You Share Some Information About Your Local Environment?

I do all of my work on a 15" Macbook Pro. For local Laravel development, I use Homestead, and for most other local development, I use MAMP Pro. Apps that I keep open all day are PHPStorm, iTerm 2 with zsh, Chrome, Transmit, Mail, and OmniFocus. There are also some mac utilities that I use everyday to speed up work and make my life easier. I use 1Password, BusyCal, TapForms for storing/finding client web access information, PathFinder as a Finder replacement, TextExpander for text shortcuts, URLs, and code snippets, and Alfred for quick app launch, contact lookups, and opening files and folders. I use Dropbox to backup my working project files, and CrashPlan+ for offsite backups of my user folder. When working on multiple projects at once, I use Komodo IDE for secondary projects. Komodo was my editor/IDE of choice for many years before switching to PHPStorm last year.

What Is Your Typical Day Like?

My typical day starts at around 7:30am. I drink coffee, eat breakfast, and attempt to answer my never-ending stack of email. Between 8:30am and 5pm, my day mostly consists of coding, client emails, phone/Skype appointments, and assorted distractions. My favorite distractions are watching Laracasts, playing Diablo III, and doing karate. I also try to keep up with all of the latest tools of the trade by watching screen-casts and reading ebooks and blog posts by people who are kind enough to share their knowledge with the entire internet.

If You Had All The Money In The World What Is The First Thing You Would Buy?

World peace? Is that for sale? First thing I would do is pay for long term assisted living for my in-laws. After that, a trip to Amsterdam with my wife :)



17

BARRY VD. HEUVEL

When I was around 15, two of my classmates started making websites (in Dreamweaver, Flash etc.). I was always interested in computers, so building websites looked very exciting. They told me I could join them if I learned to create dynamic websites, like a web shop.

Never having programmed before, I rented a PHP + MySQL book for beginners from my local library, read it during my vacation and put it into practice. I was

amazed about how easy I could develop websites with PHP and created my super simple ‘web shop’ demo to show my friends.

Apparently it was good enough, because we kept working with the three of us during secondary school, creating simple websites for acquaintances and even winning some web development contests. Even though we went our separate paths during college, we kept making websites as a part-time job and registered Fruitcake Studio to the Chamber of Commerce in 2007.

After receiving our college degrees, we decided to continue building websites. So now, +/- 12 years later, the three of us are doing the exact same thing that we have liked all this time: web development.

How Did You First Find Laravel?

I think it was around July 2012, when Laravel 3 was getting more popular, that I read some tutorials about Laravel on NetTuts and it seemed pretty awesome. I didn’t have much experience with MVC frameworks, however after reading the Laravel docs and some tutorials, it all seemed so simple and elegant. I especially loved the Eloquent ORM, it made all those boring tasks so much simpler.

After finding out about Laravel we started up some projects with it and liked it right away. Then Laravel 4 was released at just the right time and we never looked back (except for the times we have to reluctantly work on our legacy websites..). We now train our (new) developers to work with Laravel and they all seem to like it.

I Use At Least One Of Your Packages In Every Project I Start. What Made You Decide To Build These?

That’s pretty simple: because I missed something; either the functionality I was looking for wasn’t around or I didn’t like the available packages. I was following the Laravel 4 beta pretty actively and there weren’t a lot of L4 packages available in the beginning.

I liked Laravel 4 very much. There was however one thing I really missed: the auto completion from my IDE. This was pretty annoying given that I hadn’t mastered

all aspects of Laravel yet. The existing solutions were always incomplete or outdated (updated by hand), so I figured I could just as well generate the required file using Laravel itself and created laravel-ide-helper.

Laravel 3 had a profiler (Anbu, originally created by Dayle Rees) and some forks existed for L4 all building on that, but it wasn't really meant as some modular/extendable package. I first contributed to some forks, but then I found PHP Debug Bar which already contained some Symfony-minded collectors, so it was pretty easy to just extend it and created laravel-debugbar.

Usually I try to use an existing packages at first and commit some patches until I'm happy with it. In case that doesn't work out (project abandoned, disagreeing about stuff or just going way to slow for my liking), I often decide to create my own package. It is nice to do so that the IDE Helper and the Debugbar are now both one of the most used packages in the Laravel community :)

You Are Co-owner And Lead Developer At Fruitcake Studio So With All Those Responsibilities How Do You Find To Contribute To Open Source?

The good part about being co-owner is that I can decide where I'd like to spend my time on ;). On the other hand, there is only that much time to spend. I do believe that you have to keep growing as a developer, or you'll soon be too far behind. We pride ourselves on using the latest techniques, so for me it's easily justifiable that I spent time on learning from open source.

Besides, our websites/apps are built on many open-source tools, so contributing to those projects will benefit our products as well. Creating open source packages also forces you to really think about the best way to implement it, document it and make it flexible enough to be used in future projects.

It is hard to find the right balance between working for clients, contributing to open source and developing the future building blocks of projects that are still to come. Luckily the rest of the co-owners of Fruitcake Studio support me and pay my annual ticket to Laracon EU. Quite rightly, as some of our leads and applicants found out about us because of my posts on the Laravel forum or my Github profile.

I usually try to restrict working to ‘office hours’ and contribute to open source in the weekends/evenings, but of course I also have a wife and hobbies. So basically I’m frantically checking my e-mail to respond on issues whenever I have a little bit of spare time.

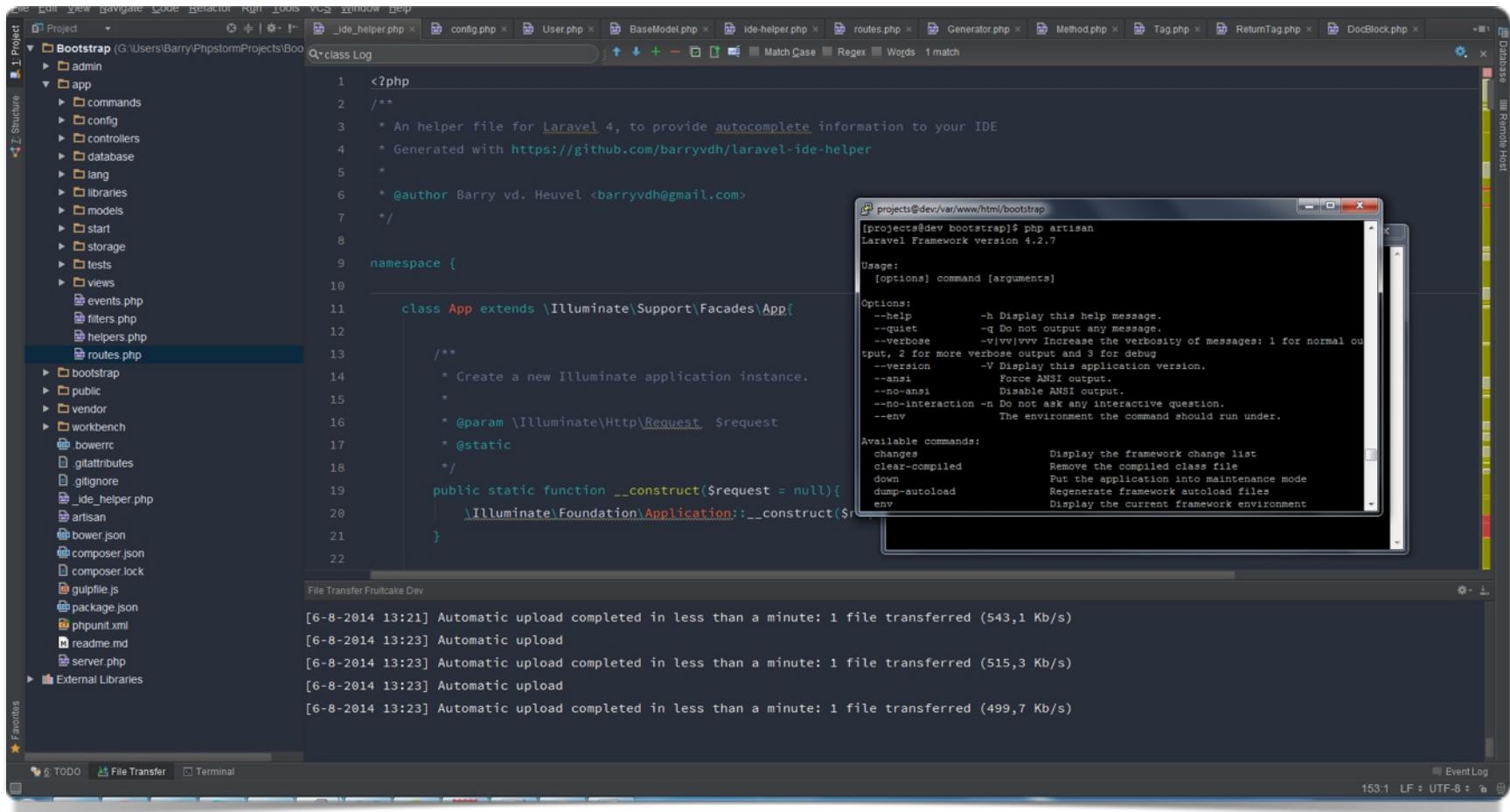
Can You Share What Your Typical Day Is Like?

I usually get up around 7.30 and arrive at office around 8.30. By then I’ve already caught up on most of Twitter and other social media. If I’ve found some interesting blog, I’ll read that first. We have a very short meeting with my colleagues to discuss our tasks for that day and thereafter we really get started.

During the day I sometimes take a quick break to answer questions on some forum or follow an interesting link on Twitter. Of course most of the time is spent on working for existing clients, making quotes for new projects or having meetings with (potential/existing) clients.

After work, my wife usually isn’t home yet, so I either buy groceries and cook dinner, or just watch TV and relax a bit until she is home. After dinner I usually just hang out with my wife, have a drink with friends, do some programming, read about web development or do some sporting.

The weekends are mostly used for catching up some sleep, go out drinking/partying with friends and family, and playing soccer on Sundays.



Barry's Desktop

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

I'm still using Windows unlike everyone else it seems, but I'm pretty okay with that. I don't do anything special on my desktop, just programming and I guess it doesn't matter that much whether I use PhpStorm on Windows or on a Mac.

We have a local development server at the office (CentOS + Apache/PHP5.4/MySQL), similar to our production servers. That server runs most of the things I need for building websites (git, gulp, bower, composer etc.). On my local PC I just run PhpStorm for programming (love my autocomplete), Putty for interacting with my server, Filezilla for transferring other files and Paint.NET for the occasional image editing (I keep away from Photoshop as much as possible, that's what our designers do much better).

For communicating with my colleagues, we use Skype and Redbooth for our task management. Besides that, Chrome, Notepad++ and the Github app are pretty essential too.

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside The Computer?

I like many sports but I've played soccer all my life and still really enjoy it. I train and play a match every week. Since my two brothers joined the team last year, we even won the championship. That was in the lowest possible amateur division, but we play soccer mostly for fun.

Recently I started to learn golf with my wife and a colleague as a less intensive and more recreational sport, but also as a networking opportunity.

I also enjoy hanging out with my friends, visiting the local bars or just visiting a movie with my wife.

If You Could Be A Superhero, What Superpowers Would You Want?

Freezing or slowing down time would be nice, I always have things I want to do, tools I want to try, projects I want to improve, sport more etc. I just can't seem to find the time to do it all. Especially with web development, a new exciting technique seems to pop up every day. That's awesome of course, but sometimes I do get the idea that I'm missing out on the fun and have to make money instead ;).



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ADAM WATHAN

I'm 27 and live in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. I've been programming in some capacity since I was about 9. I think my first exposure to it was through QBasic. I got into building little websites pretty quickly (in the days of Angelfire, Geocities, font tags and frames), and by the time I was in the 10th grade I had a part time job maintaining a catalog website for a local machinery sales company.

After high school I started a CS degree, but ended up leaving after first year because I couldn't really get myself excited about it. I think I was just burnt out from going straight into university after high school and should've taken a year to work before jumping back into it. I didn't program for a few years at all after that.

I moved out to Alberta to work on an oil sands project for a couple of years, then eventually moved back to Ontario to start a recording studio. I started to get really obsessed with tweaking the software I was using in the studio (Reaper, written by the guy behind Winamp and Gnutella), and a friend online got me set up to start writing my own plugins and extensions in C++. It really rekindled my love for software development, and I went back to school for software engineering shortly after.

I've been working as a developer for Vehikl for about a year and a half now and having a blast.

You Are Currently A Full Time Developer. Whats Your Typical Day Like?

I get up around 7:45 and leave for my commute by about 8:15. It's about a 40 minute commute which is perfect for a podcast, so I'm always listening to something. Some of my favorites are Laravel.io, Bootstrapped.fm, thoughtbot's Giant Robots, and the recently relaunched Ruby on Rails Podcast.

We've always got a few different projects on the go at a time, so first thing in the morning we figure out what's on deck for the day and plan who's going to be working on what. Most of the time I'm working on the same project for the whole day, but sometimes I'll spend a morning on one and the afternoon on another.

The bulk of my day is spent writing PHP with Laravel, but since we do a lot of full product development I do spend a lot of time on the front end as well. Lately I've been doing quite a bit of work with AngularJS and Phonegap.

I finish work around 5 and usually spend my evenings with my girlfriend, training in the garage or working on my own side projects.



Adam's Desktop

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

I work on a 2012 15" MacBook Pro. It's a 2.3ghz quad core i7, upgraded to 16gb of RAM and a 256gb SSD. It's a powerhouse of a machine but I'm a little jealous of the portability everyone else in the office has with their Airs and Retina MBPs. I work pretty much exclusively on my laptop and never bother hooking it up to an external display or any other peripherals unless I'm pairing on a problem with a co-worker.

I'm a huge Sublime fan and a little obsessed with efficiency and keyboard shortcuts. I tried to switch Vim but I'm faster in Sublime than anyone I've ever worked with who uses Vim, so I gave up.

I actually do most of my development work using the built-in PHP web server and a local install of MySQL (GASP!) but use Vagrant for any projects that need a more customized environment. The built-in PHP server is just so much faster than Vagrant so I don't mind sacrificing the "purity" of my OSX install.

Other apps I use everyday are iTerm 2, Sequel Pro, Airmail, GitHub for Mac, 1Password and Marked.

Tell Us A Little About Your Weight Lifting. I Watched Your Video And It's Impressive.

Haha, thanks! I've been competing in powerlifting for about 3 years now. I got started with fitness in general when I was about 22 and wanted to lose some weight. Eventually I figured out that the only thing that could keep me motivated to train was the satisfaction of lifting heavier and heavier weights, and I got into powerlifting. You can get stronger a lot faster than you can see results in the mirror, and being able to make quantitative comparisons between the weight you lifted last week and the weight you lifted this week is really motivating.

I competed in my first powerlifting meet in June 2011, where I squatted 386, benched 303 and deadlifted 402 at a bodyweight of 198 pounds.

My most recent meet was in June 2013, where I squatted 535, benched 381, and deadlifted 601 at a bodyweight of 238.

It's a super fun and addictive sport. I'm recovering from a back injury that's keeping me from squatting and deadlifting at the moment, but I've got a bench only competition coming up on August 23rd, so with any luck I'll finally bench 400 pounds before flying over to Amsterdam for Laracon EU!

Do You Follow A Strict Diet Or Anything? Or Just Lift As Much As You Can?

I'm terrible at the diet part. I need to get better at it, but for the most part I eat like complete crap. I'm usually at my strongest on a diet of pizza and ice cream, haha...

Finally, Do You Have Any Other Hobbies Outside Web Development And Weight Lifting?

Definitely! I've been playing guitar since I was about 7 and spent all of my teens and early twenties playing in metal bands around the province. I don't play as much as

I used to, but still pick it up whenever I can and have been getting back into it again more recently.



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JON BEHR

I was born and raised in sunny South Africa. I went to university there as well, and ended up with a masters degree in Corporate Finance – I am one of the few people that really enjoyed their studies, and I absolutely loved working in that field as well. My wife and I got married in South Africa, and we moved over to London UK in 2002 and we now also have two beautiful girls. I love playing sports (although I don't get as much time as I used to) – football, cycling, martial arts and I play some computer games in my spare time as well.

Your Product Is AccountsPortal, Can You Tell Us About It?

This is actually a really weird story. Given that my education and experience was all in the corporate finance field, you're probably wondering how I got involved in web dev. During my corporate finance years, I always had a strong affinity for IT, and I became slightly obsessed with Excel and Access. From there it was a deep (and somewhat dirty) dive in VBA, which was probably my first experience of "code". A few years later I started up a corporate finance consulting company and was looking around for some online accounting software. I didn't find anything that I really liked, so I thought that I would try my hand at this web development business.

I mean, how hard could it be, right? So, I mocked up something in Access and hired an offshore development company to build it for me. Yes, you can stop laughing now! What a complete an absolute disaster – 6 months later I eventually pulled the plug and started from fresh. I found a really great US based developer and we built the first awesome prototype together. Actually, it was pretty shit. So I got a friend of mine involved in the business who came from a SAP background, and he had great insight into accounting systems. We started from scratch (again!) and this time we actually got it right and started growing our subscription numbers. Except there was one big problem – we had decided to build our front end in Adobe Flex (which compiles down to Flash) and a year later the Apple iPad came out which didn't support flash. OK, one more rebuild! We decided to go with CodeIgniter – by this time I was a passable developer and the rebuild took about 6 months.

Since then things have been much smoother, but those first 2-3 years were absolute hell. If I am being absolutely honest, I had no right trying to get this business off the ground when I started out – I had almost zero coding experience and I didn't even know what SaaS meant. I was completely out of my depth. However, it has been an amazing learning experience, and I am a firm believer of always pushing yourself outside of your own comfort zone.

How Did You Get Involved In The Laravel Community?

At the time we did our re-write in CodeIgniter, Laravel version 1 had just come out. We considered using it, but it was not mature enough at the time. I think that there were about 15 people on the IRC channel when I first joined. But I kept a close

eye on it, we became much more involved during Version 3 and 4. I started getting enquiries from companies looking for help, and so I decided to start up a small Laravel consulting company called Mettle on the side. That has now become an important part of our business and has grown in leaps and bounds over the last year. (We're hiring!). We've also launched a few other Laravel-based SaaS products over the past year. Our most recent product is www.understand.io, which I am really excited about.

Funny story – I actually knew Taylor before he even started on Laravel. We were using PHPActiveRecord at the time and I bumped in Taylor there – go have a look at <http://www.phpactiverecord.org/users/217>. I also noticed him on the CodeIgniter forums around the same time.

You Also Started A London Laravel Meetup. Can You Tell Us More About It?

I had been thinking about doing this for a while. I met a lot of great people at Laracon EU last year (2013) and decided that it would be great if we could stay in touch. So I started up the meetup, and its just grown organically. I think that we are the largest Laravel meetup now with over 200 members and almost 50 people attending each meetup. I like to try to get new people doing a presentation each time to keep things fresh and to give people an opportunity to experience what its like talking in front of a few dozen people.

Having The CEO Role Do You Have Time To Actually Do Any Coding?

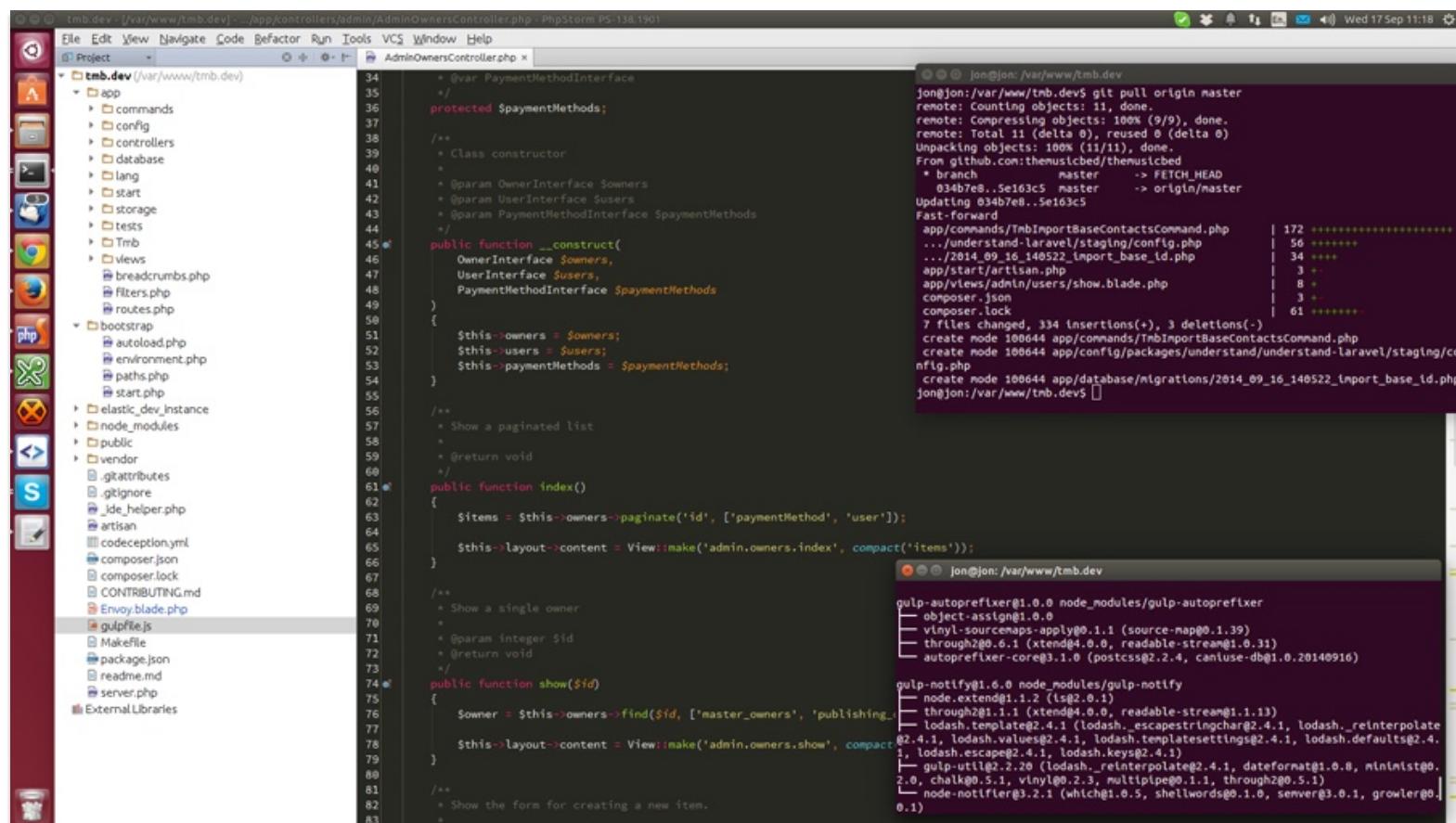
Yes, I'm still involved in coding, although its become less and less all the time. I'm juggling so many things at one time that I just don't have as much time as I used to. I still like to keep a close eye on developments in the coding sphere.

What Is Your Typical Day Like?

I wake up around 07.00am. I drop our oldest kid off at school, and I'm usually in the office before 09.00am. At work we'll have a quick catch up on what everyone is doing and a recap at the end of the day too. I head home at around 18.30 to spend time

with the kids and have dinner. After the kids are asleep we'll watch some TV or play some computer games. I'm usually in bed around midnight. Weekends are definitely family time – taking the dog for a walk, movies, going out to eat or taking a trip in the countryside.

Can You Share Some Information About Your Local Environment?

A screenshot of a dual-monitor setup. The left monitor displays the PHPStorm IDE interface. The right monitor shows a terminal window with a git pull command and a file tree. The terminal output shows a fast-forward merge from branch 'master' to 'origin/master'. The file tree shows various Laravel and PHP files, including 'AdminOwnersController.php', 'composer.json', and 'gulpfile.js'.

```
jon@jon:~/var/www/tmb.dev$ git pull origin master
remote: Counting objects: 11, done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (9/9), done.
remote: Total 11 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0)
Unpacking objects: 100% (11/11), done.
From github.com:themusicbed/themusicbed
 * branch            master      -> FETCH_HEAD
   034b7e8..5e163c5 master      -> origin/master
Updating 034b7e8..5e163c5
Fast-forward
 app/commands/TmbImportBaseContactsCommand.php | 172 ++++++-----
 .../understand-laravel/staging/config.php    |  56 ++++++
 .../2014_09_16_140522_import_base_id.php     | 34 +++++
 app/start/artisan.php                         |  3 ++
 app/views/admin/users/show.blade.php          |  8 ++
 composer.json                                |  3 ++
 composer.lock                                 |  61 ++++++
 7 files changed, 334 insertions(+), 3 deletions(-)
 create mode 100644 app/commands/TmbImportBaseContactsCommand.php
 create mode 100644 app/config/packages/understand/understand-laravel/staging/config.php
 create mode 100644 app/database/migrations/2014_09_16_140522_import_base_id.php
jon@jon:~/var/www/tmb.dev$
```

```
gulp-autoprefixer@1.0.0 node_modules/gulp-autoprefixer
├── object-assign@1.0.0
└── vinyl-sourcemaps@0.1.1 (source-map@0.1.39)
  └── through@2.0.6 (xtend@4.0.0, readable-stream@1.0.31)
    └── autoprefixer-core@3.1.0 (postcss@2.2.4, canuse-db@1.0.20140916)

gulp NOTIFY@1.0.0 node_modules/gulp NOTIFY
├── node-extend@1.1.2 (isg2.0.1)
└── vinyl@1.1.1 (xtend@4.0.0, readable-stream@1.1.13)
  └── lodash.template@2.4.1 (lodash.escapeStringChar@2.4.1, lodash._reinterpolate@2.4.1, lodash.values@2.4.1, lodash.templatesettings@2.4.1, lodash.defaults@2.4.1, lodash.escape@2.4.1, lodash.keys@2.4.1)
    ├── lodash._reinterpolate@2.4.1 (dateformat@1.0.8, minimist@0.2.0, chalk@0.5.1, vinyl@0.2.3, multipipe@0.1.1, through@2.0.5.1)
    └── node-notifier@3.2.1 (which@1.0.5, shellwords@0.1.0, server@3.0.1, growler@0.1.0)
```

I run Ubuntu 14.04 with dual 24" monitors. I code almost exclusively in PHPStorm, although sometimes I will use vim for quick edits. We use Slack for group chat, Google Hangouts for voice chat and screen-sharing and Trello and Jira for project management. Then I have Adminer for DB stuff, Postman for curl or API testing and the command line for pretty much everything else. I like keeping things as simple as possible.

Some of the other apps that I use are Dropbox, Lastpass, KeepassX and Crashplan.

The only app that I really miss from my old windows machine is Photoshop. I've really tried to like gimp, but the layout and window management drives me crazy.

Have fun! If you aren't enjoying what you are doing, then change. Life is too short.

Finally, do you have any quick advice for people that want to go from coder to business owner?

There are a few things that you should be aware of:

- Make sure that you have some capital or another source of income – in all likelihood things will take much longer to get going than you think, especially if it's a SaaS play (aka the long, slow, SaaS ramp of death).
- Be prepared for lots of ups and downs – there were many times that I wanted to throw the towel in and just quit.
- Try to pair up with someone else in the same situation as you – being on your own is extremely hard and isolating.
- Make sure to have all your legal bases covered.
- Most importantly – have fun! If you aren't enjoying what you are doing, then change. Life is too short.



20

GARRETT ST. JOHN

I've been married to a lovely lady for 6 years and have a cute little daughter who just turned 2 years old. I just recently moved from the SF Bay Area to Parker, CO (a suburb of Denver) and so far we are totally loving it. I have an Electrical Engineering and Computer Science degree from UC Irvine and have been seriously coding for the better part of 15 years.

My first experience with coding was copying BASIC programs out of a code book into my dad's PC Jr and I instantly fell in love with creating something that had an immediate result on the screen. My family was a bit slow to fully adopt the web, but I distinctly remember my first experience being my little GeoCities website with a hit counter (I think I might have hit something like 100 visitors :) My love for the web just grew from there. I've written in all sorts of languages and platforms, but have always come back to the web because of the ability to write code and immediately push it out for the world to see.

Do You Remember How You First Came Across Laravel?

Prior to making the jump to Laravel, I was all about CodeIgniter (as many of us were – see how I just deflected being judged?). I came across Laravel around the time Phil Sturgeon was dropping all sorts of stuff on Twitter about Composer, PHP-FIG, PSR, and Laravel. Honestly, it was all just a little too much for me to take in at once. I queued it up in my Instapaper and moved along my merry way. Fortunately, though, with Bold being a client services company we have some room to explore on new projects and we did just that at the tail end of Laravel 3. I remember reading the docs and just being absolutely knocked over by how easy it was to do to things that were incredibly tedious before.

You Are A Partner In The Company, Bold. Can You Tell Us About The Company And Your Role?

Sure, Bold is a small, but mighty web studio I started 4 years ago with Noah Stokes. Over those years we have done a wide variety of work from brochure marketing sites all the way to fully-baked MVP SaaS apps for clients. Most recently, we have really tightened up our focus on doing work in the non-profit sector with organizations like Tipping Point and CollegeTrack. It's hugely satisfying to be able to do work for organizations that are making an social impact.

As for my role, I am the lead developer for Bold on most days, but find myself doing everything from finances to planning to legal on any given week. Such is the life of a business owner, right?

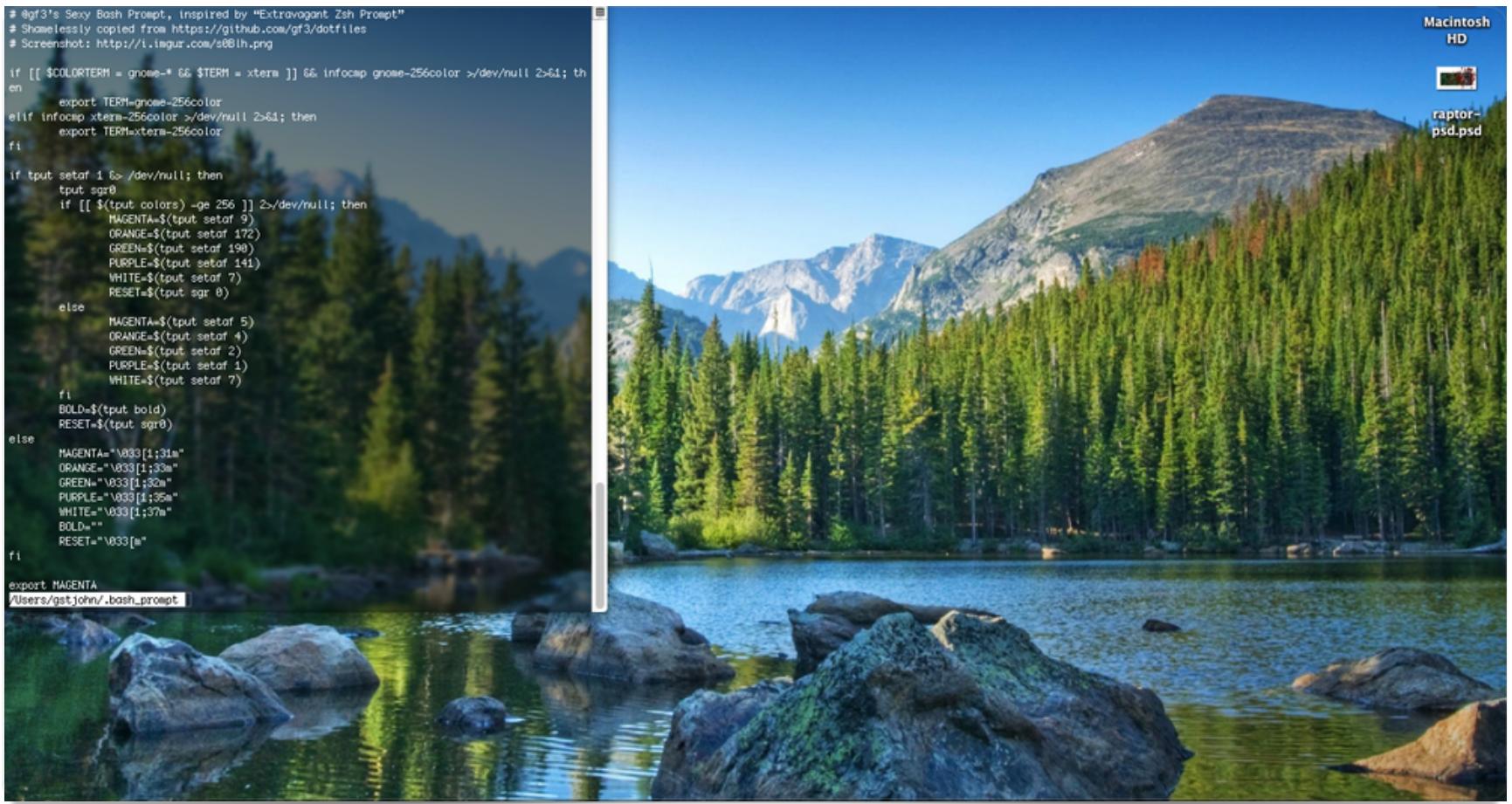
You Recently Launched AirTraffic Can You Tell Us About It And The Technology Behind It?

It's true, we just launched AirTraffic a few weeks back (where do I send the check, Eric?). As a small studio with a remote team, we were finding one of our weaknesses was managing our sales pipeline in an effective way. Ultimately, this was leading to missed opportunities and lack of team unity. We felt like as a small team using a big name CRM was just too much for us and so we created AirTraffic as a 30k foot view of our sales opportunities.

AirTraffic is built on Laravel and uses about every package Jeffrey Way has built. The timing really couldn't have been much better as Jeff was going through the Lara-Book series on Laracasts and I was soaking it all up like a sponge. We haven't implemented a proper JavaScript framework yet, but "launch early" and such...

What Is Your Typical Day Like?

I am not an early riser on any level as compared to others you have interviewed on Artisan Files, I'm more of a 9-ish start time type and wake up only early enough to make that happen. I'm a bit of a coffee snob so I brew my own at home and take it in to the office in a Thermos (no creamer!). I work at a co-work space here in Parker called Deep Space. It's been a really nice change from being stuck in a room by myself all day. Having a family, my base work hours are pretty consistently within that 9 to 5 block. Most nights I will pop open the laptop after everyone else is asleep and work on AirTraffic or continue learning on code and/or business stuff. I'm a hardcore Audible user and move through books at a pretty decent clip thanks the 1.5x playback speed. I highly recommend it.



Garrett's Desktop

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

PHPStorm (:ducks:). I started coding for the web back in the day in an editor that was just one step better than Notepad so IDEs always felt like working in Visual Studio to me (yuck!). For a long time, I clung to Sublime Text for that reason, but after seeing the power PHPStorm offers with refactoring it was a no-brainer for me. For the longest time I used MAMP because it was so dang simple, but Vaproblast (thanks Chris!) really made the virtual server concept more approachable. Then came Homestead and the switch there made even more sense. I'm on a 13" MacBook Air with an external display and my go to apps are Slack, Tweetbot, PG Commander, and 1Password. Nothing too out of the ordinary there.

Finally Just For Fun. If The Web Was Never Invented What Would You Be Doing Now?

Probably yard maintenance. In all seriousness, though, I can't imagine not creating in some fashion. I knew I wanted to be a developer from age 15 so I really haven't

consider too many other career paths. I like doing building projects around the house so I could see doing something like that. I love volleyball, but I don't think I'm disciplined enough for the workout routine involved to do that professionally. Web development really is a perfect fit for me and owning my own company gives me just enough extra freedom to scratch that entrepreneurial itch.



21

ANTONIO CARLOS RIBEIRO

I'm a 43 years old Brazilian, father, grandfather, and I live in Rio de Janeiro. When I was 14, living in Switzerland, I got amazed by Commodore 64. Not having enough money to buy one, because my mother was in the country to work and had a lot of expenses with me there too, everyday I went to a big department store, in Lausanne, to understand those things. At that particular store I decided computing was my thing and I would do everything to get into it. Unfortunately computing was something taught only in college, and two years later, I was too old to get in, according to Swiss

rules. So I got back to Brazil, but, in 1986, we were in the Lower Paleolithic here, no information, no books, almost no hardware, so I made another decision: to self-educate myself. Got my hands on some magazines and books, but they were all in English, I was fluent in French and knew some Italian and German, but not a single word of English, so I had first, or at the same time, to be self-educated in a new natural language. Four years later I was occupying a position as programmer in a government company of my State, developing in Clipper.

My degree in technology happened twelve years later, and only because, sometimes here, it helped to have one. I was thinking about a getting a government job, which gives you stability in Brazil. To get in you need to pass in a exam (concourse) and you usually need to rank top 10 or 20, between 5000 candidates, and if you have a degree, you get a better position, you get more money. I finally got in and now work for the Rio de Janeiro's Legislative Assembly, in the Information Technology area, but unfortunately not in development but in Linux systems and networking, managing Cisco routers and switches.

In 2001 I started a company with Anselmo and divided myself in two very different jobs, one to pay the rent and the other to have fun developing applications.

I dealt with a lot of different languages during my way in development, most of them compiled and for the DOS/Windows platform, the very last one, Delphi, I used to develop, with a partner, a big health management software, for about ten years, in a joint venture with a partner company which, after 10 years of development of the products, but only 3 of “real” break even, unilaterally broke the contract and got us out. Before my company went bankrupt, my partner and I decided to shutdown all services, we were also a web host company at the time, and it was a lot of work to settle every single client out and well.

And I just got myself a blank slate, or a half blank one.

How'd You First Find Laravel?

A year and a half ago, I decided to move to something completely different from what I was doing: finally enter the web application development world. As a web hosting company, I had to, sometimes, write and fix some web scripts, most of them in procedural PHP, but also in Perl, Python, JSP and even ASP, but PHP was the most fun to

write with, so I decided to stick with it and just find a good framework to help me be productive. As most of the work I did in Delphi was to architecture, create and support a development framework for creation of our applications, I knew there were a lot of code to be written before we even start to built an application, and writing it myself would just be a lot of time wasted on something I would probably not be able to create as good as a Taylor Otwell would, and did.

We had already made a choice on CodeIgniter once, our software needed to provide some (very little at first) information on the web, so we did deep research to find, at the time, the best (for us and for the job) amongst CakePHP, Symfony, Zend, CodeIgniter and, we were still thinking about Vanilla PHP, but object oriented.

I could not believe on how easy and cool Laravel was to code with it.

So I started my research from scratch, thinking about looking again to the previous candidates, but five minutes later I stumbled on Laravel 3.2, at that point, an already promising, and beautiful, framework. I could not believe on how easy and cool was to code with it. Passionate and full of ideas for my “new life”, I decided to go to Laracon DC, proud to be in the very first Laravel Conference, to met Taylor and everyone else, enter the open source community, and, maybe, help to growth hack Laravel. The conference was really awesome, I got back to Brazil even more excited than I was, and started to learn and write my first lines of code.

To learn Laravel I did something maybe unusual: As I’m good finding information and solving problems, I started answering questions on Stack Overflow. Question popped; dove in Laravel docs and source code; wrote a proof of concept to see it working; answered the question. I did that everyday for about four months, and unwittingly I became top answerer for the Laravel tag there, discovering a little after that what I just did had a market value.

I also created a Twitter account and followed every single person related to Laravel and read all the articles they wrote and linked, and, of course, signed for an account on Laracasts, from the guy who amazed all of us in one of DC’s talks. When I finally started to think about going live on web, with my personal web site, now knowing what I wanted in terms of development and infrastructure, I instantly felt the need

to have some services, which could be needed in many others, so I created some packages, most of them somehow tied to Laravel and, every one motivated by the fact that I needed that thing to be on the site, but could not find a good PHP package to provide it.

Some packages, and time, later, I was invited to be a Laravel AirPair expert, mostly by my rank on StackOverflow (that's how they find some people). I'm now in the process of creating a service to sell in Brazil, and, with it, a Laravel SDK package (already using Laravel 5), but I'm not sure this is something I could open source, because many of the engineering decisions I've made to create it could be too personal, and a package like this in the open can cause some confusion. However, I am always trying to give back to the awesome Laravel Community, and I still think that a package (or a group of packages), like this SDK, could help a lot of people get things done even faster than we are already able to do with the fantastic Laravel Framework.

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

I built myself an Intel Core i7 with lots of memory, a Dell UltraSharp 24" and a Samsung 22". It's a Windows 8 desktop workstation, basically used to code, browse, edit photography and manage remotely the other one, a Linux server, which is also a pretty big NAS (a 9TB, 6 disk, ZFS tank) and DLNA server, where I keep all my data, music, some downloaded movies and TV shows. This server is also my development server.

Windows Apps

I do PHP development using PhpStorm, anything else I still edit on Sublime Text 3. I'm in part living on the SSH command line through Kitty (it's a PuTTY on steroids). My virtual machines, including Homestead, are Oracle Virtual Boxes. I use Puush to fast take screenshots, Bittorrent Sync, Dropbox, Box and Google Drive to keep some files on cloud. Having a lot of site accounts all around, I use LastPass to keep me sane, but I'm thinking about moving to 1Password, and use iTunes for music. I'm not an artist, but I have sometimes to deal with graphic things, I used Corel Draw for a very long time but moved to Adobe Illustrator. Photography storage, organization and editing are usually done in Lightroom, unless I have to hack it, which is usually done

using Photoshop. When I need the image (not photography) editing to be fast I use Paint.Net, it's a really nice little app.

Linux Apps

Since 1999 I'm a Debianist, but as everyone is using Ubuntu and it is a Debian based distro, all my boxes are a flavor of Ubuntu, the as is a Ubuntu 14.04 and this one is managed by Ansible using those roles IRSSI for IRC. tmux, presented to me by Machuga, when I was still struggling with Screen, is my terminal buddy. Samba serves all my files over network and I use Plex Media Server as a DLNA server. The Media Center on the living room, an Elementary OS box, uses Xbox Media Center (soon to be Kodi Entertainment Center), because Plex is nice as a server but not as a media center software. Bittorrent Sync is used to keep copies of important files on three different computers: Windows, Linux and a Cloud server (also Linux). It also allows me to easily upload files to the cloud when I need. My sites are on Digital Ocean provided by Laravel Forge, I use Bittorrent Sync there to backup PostgreSQL databases too. If anyone wants to install it on Forge, here's an Ansible role I made, which may help. And you don't really have to use Ansible, a role is just a bunch of commands you can easily read reproduce on any box.

iOS apps

Every night I stop to read tweets and articles, and I do that on an iPad, using basically the Twitter app, Google Chrome and Mr. Reader, for RSS. A little after going to sleep I also play some poker online on zynga poker.

You Created A Popular Laravel Stats Tracker. Can You Tell Us About It?

People just realize they needed to store information when they actually need information. I learned that before PHP entered my life, and in the hard way. While thinking what I needed to go live with something in Laravel, I decided I could never do that without gathering information about the audience, from the very first page hit. Trak.io is a fantastic app, but it would be too expensive for a personal website, and some companies in Brazil would not accept to pay \$50/month to do something they doesn't un-

derstand what it exactly is, but if I ever get to build a site for someone else than me, I would like to have some tracking information too.

As I could not find a package capable of storing (almost) everything, I did one myself. The package stores information about your user's sessions, page views, devices, browsers, operating systems, geo location, routes hit on your Laravel app, fired events, referrers, exceptions, URL and SQL queries with all its parameters and database connections. It also tries to stick a session to your user, if someone browsed your site for 15 minutes and then registered and logged, all that previous browsing log will be tied to that person and device. And for those who really wants to know their users, a cookie can be stored in every browser, so it's "easy" to tell the needs of a particular person using your app on an iPad and a desktop, or if they are moving too frequently from iOS Safari to Chrome and help you understand why.

The stats pages already give you some nice information, like the visit log, graphs, users accesses, events and error log. Laravel Stats Tracker is far, far away from perfect, it needs cache, more reports, more graphs, speed improvements and tests, but the important part is there: data is being stored to provide decision making, probably not all information, but a lot.

You Are Big Into Photography Is That A Weird Mix? Development And Photography?

Photography is not really about light and math, those are just tools, photography is about image and objects, or subjects, it's about what you see, how you see, and what you want to capture, and, maybe, show to the world, photography is about eternity

Yeah, they seem two completely different things, that's why I have to say that photography is just a hobby. But I'm not an artist, I have a strong logical and technical background, and that help me a lot while shooting, because, in digital photography, you have something in your hands which is basically doing calculation to capture light.

If you put your gadget on Manual Mode (M), you are doing the calculations to acquire light yourself. But photography is not just about the camera, or a good one would always take fantastic shots, right?

What most people don't know is that an incredible shot has a lot to do with math too. The rule of thirds, which every single photographer must know about and use in most of their shots, is based on Fibonacci's golden ratio, which is not art, it's math. But, yes, photography is not really about light and math, those are just tools, photography is about image and objects, or subjects, it's about what you see, how you see, and what you want to capture, and, maybe, show to the world, photography is about eternity.

That's the hard part of it for people like me, too technical, you have to find a subject you are good with, understand, like and feel comfortable looking and shooting at. I like people, I like music and I (remotely) connect with them easily, so I it's easier for me to shoot concerts and portraits, what most of my shots are about.

Any Tips For Beginners For Getting Into Photography?

Read about aperture, speed and film sensitivity, read your camera manual and understand how to control those things, put your camera on manual mode and shoot, shoot until you and your camera becomes one and every photo you took from it has a good light.

At first you'll loose a lot of them, but pretty fast your mind will learn what to do, and when the "aha moment" comes, you won't look back. Then read about the rule of thirds and try to shoot according to it. Sometimes it's just not possible, because you can miss a good shot if you take the time to perfectly frame a moment, but applications like Lightroom help you to edit your photos in accordance with it.

Do You Have Any Other Hobbies?

Dancing, I met my fiancée on dancing classes! Traveling, every opportunity I have to get way I try to go to some place I didn't see yet, I like, I almost need, to be in others cultures, to speak their languages, to feel and bond, even being a shy person. Diving, I don't that too much anymore, but that was a big part of my life for a decade

and I have to get back to it. Languages are a passion, I'm fluent in French and English, and speak some Spanish and Italian, but every time I get in touch with a different language I feel the need to learn it.

Finally Just For Fun, If Your Life Was Made Into A Movie, Who Would You Like To Play You?

Well, if you are about to produce a movie about my life, you can choose: Clint Eastwood or Michael J. Fox. Michael, in spite of Parkinson's, is still a really good actor and I love to watch him on The Good Wife TV show.



22

BEN CORLETT

Digging into web development was almost ironic. I never owned a computer growing up, nor did we have Internet at home, until I was about 16. I'm now 23 (just).

We were lucky enough to have computers at school however and I just really took to all the IT classes they offered there. I wrote my first HTML website when I was 16, backed by a MySQL database and everything! We were instructed to do a website with

Wix or WordPress but I wanted to go a little further. Needless to say, it looked crap compared to everybody else's, but it was mine.

The lust grew from there.

You Have Been A Long Time User Of Laravel, What Brought You Over?

The first framework I used was CodeIgniter. I used this first at the end of 2009 (when I graduated high [secondary] school). It served me well at the time.

I became very intrigued with Phil Sturgeon, Dan Horrigan's new framework project, which had several names, including the awfully named "ThrustPHP", which was finally settled as FuelPHP. It since grew and it was about that time I joined Cartalyst as Dan Horrigan's replacement. They were using FuelPHP for the Cartalyst product itself as well as the first version of their amazingly popular, Sentry.

We were keeping an eye on Laravel (2 I believe it was at that time). It didn't have much of a following. I played with the code outside of work and had a great feeling about it. We actually sat down a couple of times to discuss the migration of all Cartalyst's code to Laravel. That was a hard decision for the guys, effectively abandoning 12 months worth of development in Fuel to migrate to Laravel. This was just as version 3 came out, back in the days of framework-centric codebases.

Then, just to throw a spanner in the works, I began following Illuminate around July/August 2012, when it was extremely unpolished. I got approval from Cartalyst to start investigating rewriting our codebase into a bunch of framework agnostic packages. That was arguably a bigger decision than migrating to Laravel as I was worried Cartalyst would think that we were just jumping on whatever new technology existed at the time.

Needless to say, if we didn't make those two moves, we'd have fallen behind.

What Is Your Typical Day Like?

These days I'm no longer contracting to Cartalyst, but running my own company, Webcomm.

I've got a number of subcontractors that work for me these days. I find my time is split 50/50 between hand-on work and project (including client) management.

I found my day to be more productive if I spend an hour or so in the morning, and the afternoon, answering emails and following up on new leads, leaving the bulk of the day to work (for the most part) uninterrupted. That's in the perfect world though, as freelancers/agencies we know our days are full of interruptions!!

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside The Computer?

Absolutely! Once I head home I try avoid my computer. I'm into a lot of things:

- Mountain biking
- Scuba diving
- Bush walking
- Beach (we have awesome beaches in Australia).
- Enjoy a BBQ and a few beers with mates, always.

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Setup?

Sure! Here's a list of the tools I usually find myself using:

- MAMP Pro – because let's face it, it's so easy and sometimes other solutions can be an

- Homestead – for all Laravel-based projects as well as other projects utilising software not offered by MAMP (ElasticSearch, Beanstalkd, etc)...
- Safari – because it really is so much nicer than Chrome (bite me).
- Mail – I've honestly just not bothered with this bandwagon of the “mail app to use this week”.
- Sublime Text – eat your heart out PhpStormers.

You can tell a lot about a person by their Dock, right? Here's mine.



Finally, If You Could Only Choose One What Would Your Favorite Movie Be?

Tricky! I don't watch a lot of movies. I typically love to watch comedies, particularly series such as The Inbetweeners or Peep Show. I think the Brits have it right.

If I had to pick a movie that inspired me like no other, I would have to say *21* (2008).



23

YITZCHOK WILLROTH

There's a Yiddish expression "mentch tracht, un Gott lacht", a man plans and G-d laughs...

Prior to becoming a developer, I spent over a decade in Yeshiva (traditional Talmudic academy, "rabbinical school") pursuing Torah scholarship as a vocation. This is not uncommon in the Orthodox community; the vast majority of young men receive formal Talmudic training and a small minority of exceptional scholars receive a level

of support from the community to continue their studies. This, of course, is where the “rabbi” in “coderabbi” originates (only a small minority of Orthodox rabbis are congregational rabbis).

The short answer to why I became a developer is that my wife, the primary breadwinner while I was learning in Yeshiva, was no longer able to continue in that role due to chronic illness, so our family needed to make a relatively sudden life change and software development was the nearest life preserver.

The long answer, on the other hand, begins quite some time ago...

A computer has been part of my life since my mother sent me to a local business school for a “College for Kids” summer program to learn BASIC on the TRS-80 Model One when I was eight. She followed that up with giving me an Apple //c for my 10th birthday and I’ve been avidly computing ever since. Though I dabbled in a few languages along the way out of curiosity, I never really had any formal training or extensive development experience, but having that history with computers forms part of the backdrop to my looking to software development when that life change became necessary.

Software development is actually my third career. I took a year off after my undergraduate work, thinking of later going on to graduate school in psychology, but found myself with a position which I felt that I couldn’t afford to leave working in marketing administration for a Fortune 100. After several years “swimming with the sharks” I woke up one day and decided that I wanted to direct my life toward something more meaningful, resigned in short order, moved to Israel and entered Yeshiva (I returned to America upon marriage).

It was the combination of a secular college education, background in the business world and computer aptitude that led to my being approached to mentor students participating in a fledgling Master of Science, Information Systems extension program being run for the local Orthodox community.

At the time, our run in Yeshiva had already stretched beyond all financial sanity on the premise that my education and work experience would provide for a gentle landing should we ever need to make a change, but I realized that while that may have been true in the beginning, ten years later the resume was looking a bit thin. I decided

to join those I was mentoring in the program, the logic being that while I would likely never use it, the degree in a marketable field would be a good insurance policy.

The program, ostensibly for a business/technology degree, was packed with technical electives in an effort to provide the students more entry level options. Though there had been a “bridge program” to prepare the students for the rigor of Master level technical courses, Advanced Java and Enterprise Database in the first semester was like drinking out of the fire hose for most. The beauty of the extension programs which our community coordinates with various colleges and universities is that there is a considerable amount of flexibility compared to on-campus programs; once the challenges were recognized, the program was put on hold while solutions were sought. Part of the solution was that since I was the only one in the program who had both a collegiate and Yeshiva background, I would function as a teaching assistant, learning ahead of the instruction and conducting weekly summary lectures providing struggling students a second chance at absorbing the material.

The Talmud says that the greatest learning comes through teaching and it was perhaps never truer. I threw myself into preparation for the review lectures, preparing my own slides, exercises, code samples, review notes for the students, etc. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it and learned the material myself at a level that simply wouldn’t have been possible had I been participating in the program merely as a student. In addition to Advanced Java and Enterprise Database, I functioned in that capacity for courses in Database Programming (Oracle/PL-SQL), System Analysis & Design, Open Source Web Development, and Web Services & Middleware.

The Talmud also teaches that very often the cure is sent before the malady and that was also true in this situation. It was during this time period that my wife’s illness necessitated a change in our life’s direction. In an example of incredible providence, one of the students was interning at the time for a company which was desperately looking to add developers. He explained that I was perhaps the program’s only credible hire at that point, but that I wasn’t yet ready to work full-time as my wife was still recuperating from a recent surgery. The hiring manager responded, “would he be willing to work remotely?”. Less than a week later I had been contracted on a provisional basis and had my first work package as a remote developer. The position was a stretch, to put it mildly, but I had an understanding team lead, the company was quite forgiving, appreciative of the extra pair of hands during an “all hands on deck” period for

them, and by working quite often sixty hours a week in order to credibly bill forty, I made it work.

Already working in a remote position, doors began to open to me which otherwise would have remained closed. Recognizing that opportunity, I began growing a freelance portfolio during that first contract and haven't looked back since. Along the way, I've been fortunate enough to find myself in a number of other project roles which would typically have been reserved for a more senior developer. The timeliness of those opportunities and the support and guidance of some fantastic mentors has really helped me shortcut the traditional career arc for our industry.

You Are Big On Mentoring. Can You Share Why You Feel It's So Important?

That's probably a cultural bias showing through to some extent. In the Orthodox community, not having a mentor is considered somewhat odd, perhaps even bordering on irresponsible, depending upon the area in question. Young men have mentors to assist them growing in their Torah studies, families have mentors that they can go to for guidance in child rearing, singles have mentors they consult while dating, young couples have mentors to consult in marriage, people entering the workforce have mentors, etc. It's very much a part of our community's value system.

Cultural bias notwithstanding, every journey is made easier with a guide, so why not avail yourself of a mentor when one is available? Think about it... have you ever been paid extra for exercising a certain skillset just because you learned it "all on your own"?! Even if it's not a formal mentor/apprentice relationship, having a network of people that you can go to for advice or assistance when you run into challenges is invaluable; it's something we should all be actively cultivating.

Having a mentor to lean on and to learn from is one way to short cut the learning process.

We work in a field where the domain knowledge required to function at a high level is simply too vast and too fast changing to be acquired via a Gladwellian "10,000

hours” approach. Having a mentor to lean on and to learn from is one way to short cut the learning process.

Young craftsmen learn from journeymen, doctors serve as interns for many years before practicing on their own, professional golfers even have swing coaches; why should our discipline be any different?

It all starts with the admission that none of us have all of the answers. That’s often the most difficult step, I think. In my experience, there are far more people in our community willing to invest time and energy into another’s success than one might think; they’re often just waiting for a prospective apprentice to take the initial step.

Can You Tell Us About Your Upcoming Talk At Php[world] In November?

It’s going to be... epic. Of course, I’m having a good day; ask me again tomorrow and I’ll tell you that it’s going to be a dumpster fire.

While public speaking is something that I’m quite comfortable with – presenting one’s work to their peers is a significant component of the Yeshiva methodology and I also teach on occasion – the talk is a bit more motivational than is my normal style (I tend toward instructional talks), so I’m a bit nervous that my performance won’t be “big” enough.

I think being selected for a conference talk can best be described as “awesome” in all of the word’s senses; it’s a task of some magnitude, it’s wonderful and exciting, and it should instill within one a certain trepidation – it’s a tremendous responsibility.

The talk is titled “Talmudic Maxims to Maximize Your Growth as a Software Developer”; it has an alternate title “Everything that I Really Needed to Know, I Learned in Rabbinical School”. It’s a beginning to intermediate level soft-skills talk in a keynote style; I utilize “the wisdom of the sages” in the form of aphorisms from the Talmud as a vehicle to share my own wisdom for young developers.

It’s my first conference talk (on my first submission, no less!) and I’m very much looking forward to it. I have tremendous gratitude to php[world] for my selection.



Can you ever have too many screens?

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

My local environment is somewhat atypical, I'd venture.

My operating system is Windows 8.1 which I have been quite happy with, though I do use Stardock Start8 to simulate the Windows 7 Start Menu (I use my mouse far too much).

I work exclusively in virtual machines managed by Vagrant and virtualized via VMWare Workstation.

As the picture shows, I'm a desktop minimalist. That's actually something of a facade, as I keep most of my "in progress" files on the desktop, but rely on Stardock Fences to keep them organized into folders and hide them with a double click. I like the freedom of the desktop to move files around visually and regroup them easily, but really appreciate a spartan desktop as well, so Fences has been a treasured find.

My primary development environment is PHPStorm; when I'm working in Java (which I teach as part of a dev training program for the Orthodox community) I use NetBeans. I also keep NotePad++ around to quickly hack something out.

My terminal of choice is Cygwin with the zsh shell; I rely a great deal on plugins for the Oh My Zsh! framework to speed my terminal use as I didn't "grow up" using the command line.

I've scripted a lot of repetitive tasks, text snippets, etc. using AutoHotKey which I think finally after years of use have begun to save me more time than they took to create.

I appreciate having a GUI for reviewing version control logs, so I use SmartGit/Hg. I've been using JetBrains' oxDBE database tool in beta, and will likely move to that permanently; I had been using EMS Manager previously, but appreciate having all of the various engines under a single install.

I've yet to find a task manager which perfectly complements my organizational style – I really need a light weight project manager, but haven't found the right combination of features in that genre, either – but Todoist is hanging in there strong and is usually open on my desktop. Toggl is also usually open to log my time for clients.

I surf in Chrome (love those extensions!) and when working the frontend, develop with Firefox/FireBug.

As you can see (yes, I cleaned my desk for the picture!), I'm heavily reliant upon multiple monitors (I even travel with a USB powered LCD screen so that I can have two monitors when working from my laptop). The three 24" screens (16:10 FTW!) mounted horizontally are my primary workspace and run off of a single desktop pc. The laptop screen below them is touch enabled; I use that primarily as a "comms center" – Outlook, Twitter, HexChat for IRC, HipChat, Google Hangouts, Skype, etc. – which allows me to easily black it out when I need to focus. The large screen on top is also connected to the laptop; right now it's primarily for media, but I've a thought to swap it out for a 4k so that I can use its real estate – having a dedicated monitor for browsing would be quite helpful, I think, as it would virtually eliminate the need to switch windows while working. Multiplicity allows me to navigate between all five screens across two machine using a single keyboard and mouse; I use TeamViewer to

access a headless Mac Mini and Ubuntu box which complete the setup and to access everything from the road. With so many screens, I am heavily impacted by blue light; f.lux thankfully eliminates that issue.

The tablet in the picture is a Samsung Ativ Windows tablet that I use when I'm at conferences and client sites (love the pen!). Lately I've been using Chrome to view open tabs on the PC from the tablet and I really appreciate being able to grab it and leave my desk for a bit when I want to consume content.

Finally, I'm heavily reliant on a few apps as well. I send a tremendous amount of content (usually from Twitter) to Pocket for reading later. My backlog would probably take me several years if I were to never add another article, but I find that the personally curated store is great to search against when I'm researching a problem. After the demise of Google Reader, I migrated to Feedly and have found it to be the "Churchill's Democracy" of feed readers, horrible, but better than all of the rest. I also use focus@will whenever I'm having difficulty with focus. It's a curated music stream designed to occupy the distractible parts of your brain just enough to allow you to focus, but not so much that the music becomes the focus. Noise canceling headphones, a white noise generator (to dampen sudden noises which noise cancellation technology doesn't do well with), and a focus@will stream and I am almost instantly "in the zone".

How Did You First Find Laravel?

I wasn't involved with Laravel in the 3.x days; I think my first awareness of it was a Phil Sturgeon blogpost extolling its virtues in June of 2012. At that point, I was working primarily within the Symfony ecosystem, but I made a note of it for later. I followed the buzz around the 4.0 release on Twitter and decided that the time had come to take it out for a spin. There was a lot I liked about it; there were also things which I wasn't so fond of.

I did realize immediately that it fit a niche in my arsenal, however, perfect for rapid prototyping of projects a bit too large to do in Silex easily. As I worked with it more frequently, and as each successive release seemed to leave behind more and more of the things which had bothered me initially, I found its useful range growing considerably. I still see it for me as fitting somewhere between Silex and Symfony de-

pending upon the project, but it's eaten into my use of both of those frameworks considerably. If it's not the majority of my work right now, it's certainly the plurality and it's what I find myself working with the most for my own projects.

Can You Share What Your Typical Day Is Like?

My typical day now is very similar to what it was when I studied full time in Yeshiva; three prayer services, three work sessions and a nap.

The alarm goes off at six and I'm up, showered, dressed, coffee'd and settling in for an hour of Talmud study by 6:30. Fortunately the synagogue is only a few hundred feet from my front door, so almost no time is wasted by travel (I work remotely from a home office); the forty-five minute morning prayer service follows.

A small breakfast puts me in front of the keyboard for my first work session of the day by 8:30. That session lasts until 1:30 and is followed by the afternoon prayer service (it's a short one – about fifteen minutes) and a light lunch. That much is the same six days a week and forms the backbone of my work week; as an independent developer, I work very hard to ensure that those six five-hour sessions each week are filled with billable hours. Usually at that point I'll catch a nap. I picked up that habit during my years in Yeshiva (the traditional Yeshiva schedule has included an afternoon break to recuperate after an intensive morning session of study for at least 150 years) and I find that this biphasic sleep pattern suits me best.

Monday through Thursday, I'm typically back at it by 3:30 for a late afternoon work session which lasts two to three hours depending upon my workload. After dinner, homework with the kids, bedtime, the evening prayer service (around twenty minutes) and another hour of Talmud study.

On Sundays this period is family time and Fridays it's typically dedicated to helping my wife with Sabbath preparation. Sunday through Thursday, I end the day with another work session, though that one is normally reserved for my own pursuits; coding, blogging, research, communal work, whatever happens to have my interest at the time. This session usually lasts two to three hours, leaving me the six or so hours of sleep I need at night.

Saturday is the Sabbath for us (beginning Friday evening) and I totally disconnect; no computer, no social media, no phones, etc... There are additional prayer services, more time for study, festive meals, family time, leisure activity and more sleep than I get during the week; it's a tremendous recharge for me spiritually, physically and emotionally and allows me to manage a fairly heavy schedule the rest of the week.

The last year or so I've been doing consulting as well as independent development, so when I'm at a client site, the whole schedule changes, of course, but those days are the exception rather than the rule.

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside The Computer?

Very few, actually. My schedule doesn't permit a lot of time for outside pursuits and leisure for leisure's sake doesn't hold the same value in the Orthodox community as it does for most Americans.

Being a developer and being a full-time Torah scholar are very similar in the sense that they are vocations which people also pursue as vacations; we unwind from our "day job" by going home and... doing more of the same. What free time that I do manage I try to devote toward continuing my Torah studies, but it's much less than I would like. I'm active in a number of communal organizations and mentor both within the development and Orthodox communities.

I do enjoy reading – typically escapist mystery, fantasy or sci-fi genres – so I do a fair amount of that on the Sabbath when leisure time is more plentiful. I enjoy camping and fishing, though I'm not sure it can be called a hobby since I never have time to pursue it; now that my boys are old enough to enjoy it – eight and six – I hope to change that (that means I'll likely have to work less, but I'll take that trade!). I've been playing correspondence chess with the same partner for nearly a decade. I follow the Cubs through the box scores and my guilty pleasure in the winter is making time each Sunday to watch the Bears.

Conferences give me a nice break from routine, so I suppose that counts, too.

If The Internet Didn't Exist What Do You Think You Would Be Doing As A Full Time Job?

That's a very difficult question as I didn't expect to be working as a developer (or at all!) in the first place. It's probably cheating to say that I would be still be pursuing Torah scholarship as a vocation since that would require additional altered realties beyond the nonexistence of the internet, but that would definitely be my first choice by a very wide margin (and still is, even though the internet exists).

I suppose that I might return to the business world, though that would be very much an option of last resort. I could also picture myself returning to school, pursuing the graduate work in psychology that I forwent early in my career (five degrees, what's one more?!).

If everything else was precisely as it is now with the exception of the nonexistence of the internet, and I had to move on to something else immediately, I suppose I'd be teaching or working in a communal role; I already do both of those on a part-time basis, so going full-time would be a natural choice.



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PABLO CHIAPPETTI

Hi, I'm Pablo! I'm 26, born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and I share my life with Paula, my girlfriend/partner/best friend since we were both 16 y/o. According to degrees, I'm a multimedia Designer, but in real life I'm a web developer who cares quite a lot about design. Currently working with Laravel for every web related project I'm assigned to, and also building a mobile web app to improve urban cycling with some friends in [@Bikestorming](#).

My first experience with coding was at the age of 12, when I started modifying and making little scripts for mIRC, the IRC client in those days. It's always been a lot of fun for me to build things (Coding > Legos), so whenever I was allowed to use my 56k modem, I went online and spent hours researching on HTML, CSS and PHP. By the time I was in high school I was already making websites for a living, mostly using Joomla, WordPress, and a lot of messy PHP functions ^_^(

How Did You First Find Laravel And What Made You Start Using It?

I found out about Laravel because Jeffrey made a course about it on Tuts+ when it was still in version 3. It was love at first sight, so I made the switch immediately. What definitely made me start using it was the clear syntax and Eloquent's powerfulness.

The first website I built (still in v3) was for a company which required an administration section, and it was a bonding experience for Laravel and I. We never looked back and lived happily ever after :)

You Run The Laravel Buenos Aires Meetup. Can You Tell Us About It?

It is amazing! I started Laravel Buenos Aires simply because I wanted to talk with other people (face to face, and in Spanish) about Laravel, this tool I was so passionate about. I didn't know anyone who was using it the way I did, so it really took me by surprise to see how many developers were actually interested in learning and/or using Laravel in their projects, right in my own city!

We are now a community of almost 130 (yes, a hundred and thirty), and we get together once a month in Areatres Labs, a co-working space that kindly hosts us.

We have interesting talks related to Laravel and the best practices it embraces, all in a very friendly environment with the amazing LaravelBA community. I'm so glad I started this meetup and I encourage anyone, everywhere, to do the same.

Also, I will be speaking about Laravel and my experience hosting this meetup in the next PHP Conference Argentina, one of the main IT events in South America!

What Is Your Typical Day Like?

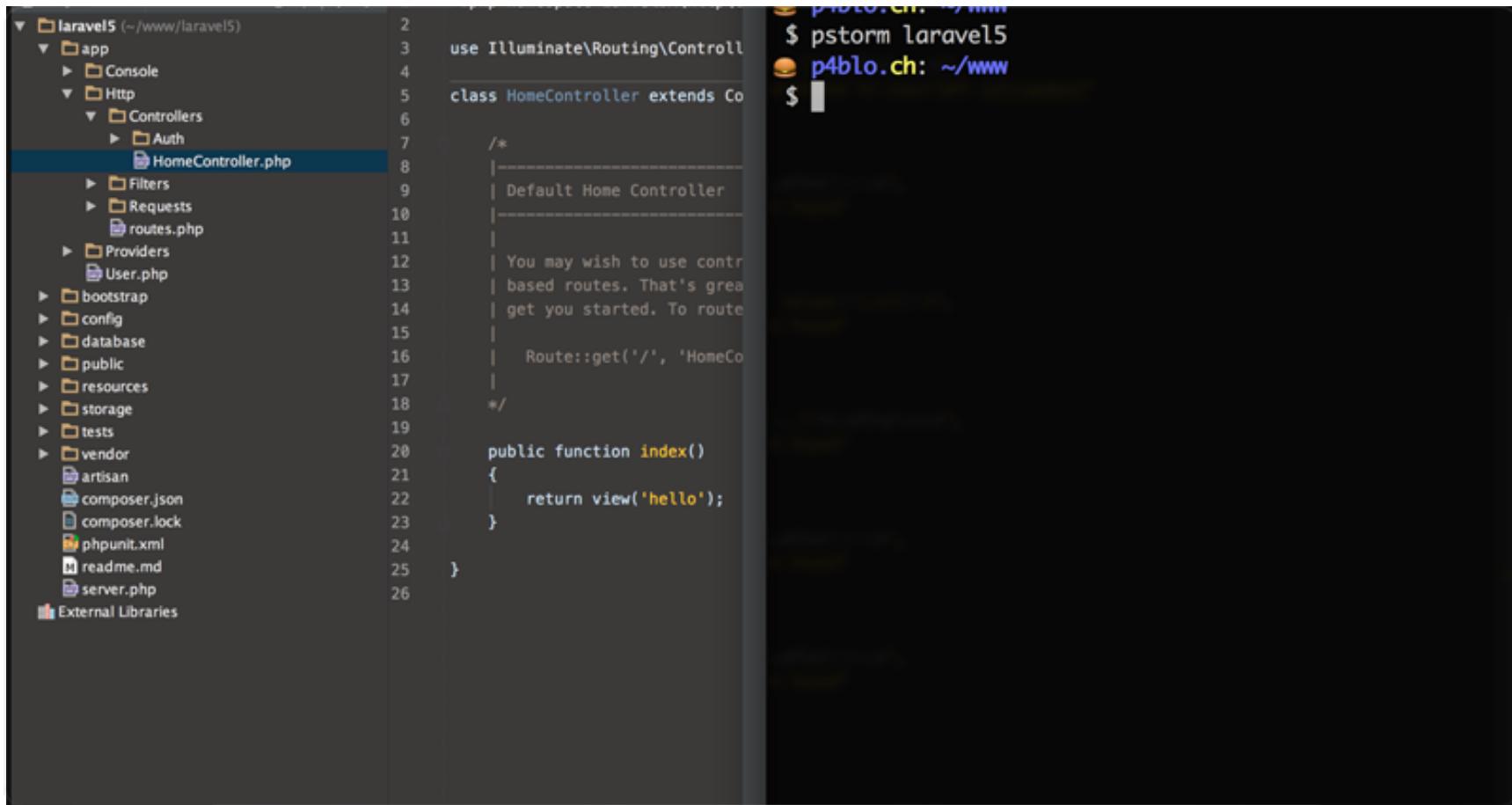
I'm usually working on several projects at the same time, so I get to pick which tool I'm into every day, and I love that. This goes from building APIs, CLI tools, full websites with Laravel, back end applications, or even web apps with MeteorJS.

Right now I'm working on Bikestorming's mobile web app, which is being built with Meteor, a CLI tool built around Symfony/Console, and a website for a real state company using Laravel.

Do You Have Any Hobbies Outside Of The Computer?

I really enjoy playing football (the real one! :P), and I do it once a week with some friends, religiously. I'm also a huge Boca Juniors fan, so every time we play in La Bombonera, that's where you'll find me.

Swimming and traveling are two passions that I try to put together whenever I can.

A screenshot of a Mac OS X desktop showing two windows. On the left is the PhpStorm IDE interface, displaying the file structure of a Laravel 5 project. The 'app' directory is expanded, showing 'Console', 'Http', 'Controllers', 'Auth', and 'HomeController.php'. The 'HomeController.php' file is selected and shown in the code editor. The code is as follows:

```
2 use Illuminate\Routing\Controller
3
4 class HomeController extends Controller
5 {
6     /*
7     |----------------------------------------------------------------
8     | Default Home Controller
9     |----------------------------------------------------------------
10
11     |
12     | You may wish to use contr
13     | based routes. That's grea
14     | get you started. To route
15     |
16     | Route::get('/', 'HomeCo
17     |
18     */
19
20     public function index()
21     {
22         return view('hello');
23     }
24
25 }
26
```

On the right is a terminal window titled 'p4blo.ch ~ /www'. The command '\$ pstorm laravel5' is entered, and the response '\$' is shown, indicating the application is running.

PhpStorm and Terminal

Can You Tell Us About Your Local Environment?

I live code on a Macbook Pro 13", and I rely heavily on shortcuts and aliases to move around my projects and apps. I use oh-my-zsh and from time to time I like to modify my theme, which currently has a hamburger on it. I use iTerm 2, and thanks to a tip I learned from Jeffrey, I hide/call it from anywhere using a single key stroke. I also use SizeUp to easily arrange my windows.

I don't like OS X's dock, it takes up much screen in my opinion, so I throw it to the left and set the time it takes to appear to around 10 seconds, so I don't accidentally call it. I use spotlight and aliases to fire up apps, and I code in both PHPStorm and Sublime Text.

If You Was Stranded On A Desert Island What Three Things Would You Bring With You?

I was going to answer a boat, a compass and a map, but let's not be all programmer about it. I'm going with dulce de leche, interesting books to read (not development related) and my favourite pair of googles!

CREDITS

I'd like to thank all the interviewee's for taking the time to be a part of this series. Without them this would have never worked out.

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