Arsenii Mkrtumian

Backend Engineer (PHP / Symfony)

Yerevan, Armenia (UTC+4) · Remote preferred, open to on-site in Yerevan · Available as B2B contractor · arseniimkrtumian@gmail.com · +374 99 252005 · mkrtumian.com · LinkedIn

Summary

Backend engineer with 5 years of commercial experience building PHP/Symfony services for high-traffic e-commerce and FinTech. Cut p95 latency of critical endpoints by ~3x through SQL optimization and Redis caching, and designed event-driven flows on Kafka and RabbitMQ. Built payment and banking integrations end to end — Stripe, PayPal, 2Checkout, bank APIs, plus US health-insurance eligibility and claims integrations. Also build services in Kotlin (Ktor), Node.js (TypeScript) and Python, including an LLM request-routing service on FastAPI and LangChain.

Experience

Protelion — Android Engineer

Jun 2026 – Present

- Built the system Calendar app for ArmoredOS, a hardened mobile OS, from scratch: two-way sync with Microsoft Exchange (EWS), CalDAV and Google Calendar, plus iCalendar (.ics) import and export.
- Designed offline-first sync: changes made offline are queued and reconciled on reconnect, with server-side changes applied first as the source of truth.
- Implemented encrypted client–server communication on both the client and the server side, within the OS's security constraints.
- Took the built-in email client (IMAP, SMTP, Exchange) from an early, unstable version toward production quality.
- Moved business logic and the data layer into shared Kotlin Multiplatform modules reused across platforms.
- Review code in a team of 4 engineers.

AxiomateNova — Co-founder & Software Engineer

Apr 2025 – May 2026 · part-time, alongside OptimaxDev

Adjutor-AI: B2B SaaS that automates Agile project management — AI meeting summaries, budget tracking and AI reports on Git activity.

- Designed and built the entire backend as microservices on PostgreSQL, MySQL and Elasticsearch: a Ktor core for real-time data processing, Laravel subscription and user services, and a Node.js / TypeScript event-handling service on Prisma.
- Built the backend for the finance module (real-time budget tracking, overrun alerts, multi-currency conversion at live exchange rates) and for Git Reporter (AI summaries of commits and pull requests).
- Integrated 3 payment providers (Stripe, PayPal, 2Checkout) for subscription billing with webhook-driven payment status updates, and the Google Calendar API for meeting scheduling.
- Set up Kafka as an ordered queue for clients' AI requests.
- Built the LLM routing service in Python (FastAPI, SQLAlchemy, LangChain, LangGraph) that classifies each client input and forwards it to the right microservice.
- Owned all backend work in a two-person engineering team: mutual code review, CI on GitHub Actions, OpenAPI specs, PHPStan static analysis and monitoring in Grafana and Kibana.
- Built and launched the MVP.

OptimaxDev — Backend Engineer

Jan 2024 – Jun 2026

- Developed the backend for GlassesUSA.com, one of the largest US online eyewear retailers (tens of thousands of orders per month): Symfony microservices (Doctrine ORM) on MySQL, PostgreSQL and Elasticsearch around a Magento 2 storefront.
- Brought p95 latency of the slowest high-traffic endpoints from ~900 ms to ~300 ms by rewriting heavy SQL queries and adding Redis caching.
- Processed checkout steps, purchase confirmations, payments and product status updates as Kafka event streams — thousands of events per day.
- Built and maintained integrations with US health-insurance carriers and benefit programs (UHC, NVA, Ambetter, iCare, Medicare plans) over REST, SOAP and SFTP for GlassesUSA.com and United Vision Plan (UVP), Optimax's B2B vision-benefits

platform: real-time eligibility checks and claims submission, handling protected health information (PHI) under HIPAA requirements.
- Migrated legacy Symfony applications to Symfony 6+.
- Built out backend test automation almost from zero with Codeception and PHPStan: grew the suite from ~15 to 300+ automated tests, so regressions were caught before release instead of in production.
- Ran services in Docker behind Nginx, shipped through GitLab CI, with OpenAPI-documented APIs and production error tracking in Sentry.
- Worked in a team of 8 engineers with a strict review process: 2–3 approvals within the team plus sign-off from the tech leads of every affected team (20+ teams in total).

Evistep Enterprise — Full-stack Developer

Oct 2022 – Jan 2024

- SmobilPay by Maviance — a digital payment platform across Central Africa (CEMAC): on a Symfony and Phalcon backend, integrated the APIs of 2 African banks into the platform's payment and money-transfer flows, plus a major interbank service for transfers to other banks across Africa; bank-to-bank transactions through our gateways ran over RabbitMQ.
- Built backend flows for utility bill payments in Cameroon: bill lookup, payment and transaction status tracking. Shipped through Jenkins and Bitbucket Pipelines, with PHPUnit tests, PHPStan static analysis and log monitoring in Kibana.
- GoAptive, a large CRM for the hospitality and real-estate industry (CodeIgniter, Laravel): sped up the backend by rewriting heavy raw SQL queries, with PHPStan static analysis and CI on GitHub Actions.
- Subliminator, an e-commerce brand with 500k+ orders: developed two Symfony services — one renders apparel designs into product images, the other runs the store's API and its Shopify and Etsy integrations via APIs and webhooks.
- Built the HubSpot CRM integration from scratch on the backend: sync of 5,000+ active customers, their purchase history (tens of thousands of orders) and product recommendations with store data.

ToolBox Software — Junior Full-stack Developer

Oct 2021 – Oct 2022

- NeoFitHub, a fitness platform with ~11,600 active users: built and supported backend features on Symfony — CRUD endpoints and REST API changes — plus client work in Angular / TypeScript.
- Converse Bank: front-end work on the bank's public website (conversebank.am).

Skills

- **Languages:** PHP (7.4, 8.x), Kotlin, TypeScript, Python
- **Frameworks:** Symfony, Laravel, Magento 2, Ktor, Node.js / Express, FastAPI
- **Databases & ORM:** MySQL, PostgreSQL, Elasticsearch, Redis; Doctrine, Prisma, SQLAlchemy; SQL query optimization
- **Messaging:** Kafka, RabbitMQ
- **APIs:** REST, OpenAPI / Swagger, webhooks
- **Integrations:** Stripe, PayPal, 2Checkout, banking APIs, US health-insurance APIs, HubSpot CRM, Shopify, Etsy, Google APIs
- **Testing & code quality:** PHPUnit, Codeception, PHPStan, code review
- **DevOps & CI/CD:** Docker, Docker Compose, Nginx, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, Jenkins, Bitbucket Pipelines, Git
- **Monitoring:** Sentry, Grafana, Kibana
- **AI / LLM:** LangChain, LangGraph

Awards

1st place, Cybersecurity — national qualifier for Armenia, BRICS Hi-Tech Future Skills International Competition, 2026 · team of 2

Education

Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University — BSc, Management and Business, 2021–2025 · GPA 3.6/4

Languages

Armenian (native) · Russian (native) · English (intermediate, B1–B2)