NICK JOHNSON

Senior Full-Stack Engineer | Laravel / Vue / Next.js / AI

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SUMMARY

Senior Full-Stack Engineer with 17 years in software development, working in PHP and Laravel since 2015 and Vue since 2017, with Next.js, TypeScript, and PostgreSQL at Cardinal Financial. Led a development team and the modernization of Total Mortgage's platform from ASP Classic to Laravel and Vue, and administered the Linux servers behind it. Work with AI coding agents daily, helped set up my team's shared Claude Code skills and CLAUDE.md rules, and build LLM features with the Anthropic and OpenAI APIs. Have worked remotely since 2019.

EXPERIENCE

Full-Stack Engineer

Cardinal Financial Co. | Remote | June 2020 to August 2026

- Helped establish the team's standards for AI coding agents, writing shared Claude Code skills and CLAUDE.md rules for agent work in our codebases.
- Contributed backend and frontend development to a multi-year internal platform build in Laravel and Alpine.js, The project was cancelled prior to release.
- Migrated the company's WordPress marketing sites to Next.js and moved their data from MySQL to PostgreSQL, including sebonic.com, which went live before my departure.
- Built a sales dialer with two other developers in Vue 3, TypeScript, Pinia, and Vite, using WebSockets.
- Ran containerized services in Docker across local development and production, using Redis, and shipped through a CI/CD pipeline on a regular release cycle.
- Wrote automated tests across the stack, using PHPUnit and Pest for backend code and Vitest and Playwright for frontend and end-to-end coverage.
- Integrated OpenAI and Anthropic APIs into application features, using tool calling, structured JSON output, and vision-based document understanding.
- Used Claude Code, Codex, and previously Cursor daily in production codebases, reviewing every change before it shipped and owning the result in production.

Contract Full-Stack Developer

Self-Employed | Remote | October 2019 to May 2020

- Built a job application platform end-to-end with Laravel and Vue, designing the database schema, REST API layer, and frontend from scratch.
- Implemented server-side filtering, pagination, and role-based access control across the API and a reactive Vue frontend.
- Shipped a responsive, production-ready app with optimized queries, lazy-loaded components, and cross-device compatibility.

Lead Web Developer

Total Mortgage Services LLC | Milford, CT | September 2009 to October 2019

- Administered the Linux application environment behind production web properties, covering Nginx and Apache configuration, PHP services, cron jobs, background queues, file permissions, and application logging, and was the point person for production issues, diagnosing them across the application, database, and server layers and putting permanent fixes in place.
- Built and integrated authentication, including enterprise single sign-on (SAML, OpenID Connect, LDAP) and OAuth-based third-party providers.
- Led the modernization of TotalMortgage.com from ASP Classic to CodeIgniter on LAMP and then a Laravel and Vue.js rebuild on LEMP, reducing technical debt, restructuring the database, and optimizing MySQL queries to improve page load times.
- Built an application for collecting appraisal fees through Stripe.
- Led a team of 2 developers and a designer, owning architecture, technical decisions, and code review while shipping features on a regular release cycle.
- Co-built Embr, an internal marketing portal using Laravel and React, handling campaign management, asset generation, and distribution workflows.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- **Podwobble** (podwobble.com). Built a desktop app that turns podcast episodes into full-length videos and short social clips, with local transcription through whisper.cpp. Went from first commit to public release in five weeks with Claude Code, shipping releases through GitHub Actions. Tauri 2, Rust, TypeScript, ffmpeg, whisper.cpp
- **ClassFindr** (classfindr.com). Built an AI-powered marketplace connecting college students with available courses across institutions, including a prerequisite-aware course sequencer that handles multi-level chains and cycles in catalog data, plus LLM tool calling and structured output for transfer credit evaluation. Nuxt, TypeScript, GraphQL, Prisma, PostgreSQL, OpenAI/Anthropic APIs
- **Artemis 2 Mission Dashboard** (artemis2mission.live). Built a real-time dashboard for NASA's Artemis 2 lunar flyby with live viewer counts and synchronized audio across all connected visitors, handling over 500,000 emoji reactions over WebSockets during the mission. Next.js, Supabase Realtime, WebSockets

SKILLS

Backend: PHP 8, Laravel (through 12), REST APIs and integrations, JWT authentication, queues and background jobs, scheduled jobs, third-party API integration, MVC architecture, Livewire, Node.js, Supabase, WordPress, LEMP/LAMP stacks

Databases: PostgreSQL, MySQL, stored procedures, transactions, MSSQL, relational modeling, schema design, normalization, indexing, query optimization, data migrations

Testing & Quality: PHPUnit, Pest, Vitest, Playwright, code review

Infrastructure & DevOps: Linux systems administration, Docker and containers, Jenkins, CI/CD, Git, Nginx, Apache, cron, shell scripting, SSH, Redis, application logging, AWS

Frontend: JavaScript, jQuery, HTML5, CSS3, responsive design, Vue 2 / Vue 3 (Composition API), TypeScript, Next.js, React, Nuxt.js, Alpine.js, Pinia, Tailwind CSS, SASS/SCSS

AI: Claude Code (permissions, hooks, MCP servers, skills, CLAUDE.md), Codex, and Cursor in production codebases; OpenAI and Anthropic APIs, tool calling, structured JSON output, vision and document understanding

EDUCATION

BBA in Marketing, Southern Arkansas University