John Janes

Principal Software Engineer

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Summary

Principal Software Engineer with 25+ years delivering high-impact solutions across Fortune 500 companies and fast-growing startups. Proven expertise in scaling engineering teams, modernizing legacy systems, and building enterprise marketing and SaaS platforms. Track record of supporting multiple funding rounds and leading critical compliance initiatives including GDPR and PCI.

Skills

Languages & Frameworks: PHP (Symfony, Laravel), Ruby (Rails), JavaScript (Node.js, Express, React, Angular), Go, HTML/CSS

Databases & Search: MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Elasticsearch

DevOps & Cloud: AWS, Docker, Terraform, Ansible, Jenkins, Linux Administration

Tools & Platforms: Git, ELK Stack, Snowflake, Datadog, Redis, Jira, MuleSoft

Practices: Microservices Architecture, API Development, ETL Pipelines, Agile/Scrum, Testing (RSpec, PHPUnit)

Specialized: Zuora (Billing), FFmpeg, PCI Compliance, GDPR Implementation

Experience

EventLink — Consultant/Contractor

Remote | Jan 2024 – Jun 2024

- Led engineering team in developing modern Ruby on Rails application to replace 15-year-old legacy PHP system
- Leveraged deep domain expertise as original architect of the legacy platform to ensure seamless migration and data integrity
- Designed system architecture for improved scalability and maintainability

U.S. LawShield — Senior Software Engineer

Webster, TX | Jan 2020 – Oct 2023

- Supported operations for insurance and legal services platform serving 2+ million members
- Integrated Zuora billing system as primary backend; served as technical liaison with Zuora support team
- Trained and mentored offshore development teams on core systems architecture and maintenance
- Led production of monthly and weekly financial reports for executive leadership
- Built new features using Laravel while maintaining complex reporting infrastructure across MySQL, PHP, Java, Elasticsearch, and Zuora
- Empowered business analysts through custom MySQL queries enabling data-driven decision making
- Maintained multi-language legacy systems ensuring business continuity

ActiveCampaign — Senior Software Engineer

Chicago, IL | Jan 2019 – Jan 2020

- Supported $240M Series C funding round and Salesforce partnership through platform stability and improvements

- Owned critical campaign approval system processing 24M+ daily email campaigns for 200K+ subscribers
- Achieved 1M+ emails per hour per client capacity through refactoring and optimization on platform processing 2B+ monthly emails
- Refactored legacy monolithic codebase to modern PHP standards and SOLID principles
- Built internal diagnostic tools improving system observability and reducing incident response time
- Contributed to microservices migration breaking down monolithic architecture
- Represented Campaign team in organizational incident response efforts
- Mentored junior developers and support engineers on platform architecture and troubleshooting

Yello — Senior Software Engineer

Chicago, IL | Aug 2016 – Dec 2018

- Supported Series B ($5M) and Series C ($31M) funding rounds through platform improvements and stability
- Maintained mission-critical legacy PHP monolith serving 50%+ of Fortune 500 client user base during multi-year Rails migration
- Led GDPR compliance implementation across legacy PHP application ensuring data protection for enterprise clients
- Rebuilt reporting system from the ground up while maintaining ongoing business operations
- Transitioned from Campus team (PHP monolith) to Integrations team (Rails microservices)
- Managed weekly releases using Jenkins and GitFlow across both legacy and modern technology stacks
- Built and maintained integrations using MuleSoft, React, and Ruby on Rails
- Mentored junior developers across multiple technology stacks and platforms

Synergy Marketing Partners — Lead Engineer

Lombard, IL | Nov 2012 – Aug 2016

- Hired as first full-time engineer; grew engineering team to 7 developers supporting company expansion to 40+ employees
- Established technical policies, development processes, and system architecture from ground up
- Built high-traffic CMS platform using Symfony/Silex for enterprise clients including MLB.com and Chevrolet.com
- Developed 720 Digital Ad Creator using Rails, Node.js, Express, PhantomJS, and Angular for regional and national automotive advertising
- Processed 200K+ monthly unique leads and sweepstakes entries across multiple platforms
- Served as technical point of contact for General Motors, Nissan, BMW, and Toyota
- Led PCI compliance efforts ensuring payment security across all client platforms
- Managed system administration including Ubuntu servers, Apache, NGINX, MySQL, and SSL certificate management

Discount Mags — Senior Software Engineer

Downers Grove, IL | Nov 2011 – Dec 2012

- Built affiliate marketing platform from the ground up for large-scale e-commerce operations
- Integrated payment providers including PayPal and Authorize.net

Dealer E Process — Senior Software Engineer

Downers Grove, IL | Nov 2010 – Nov 2011

- Led migration from Subversion to Git improving team collaboration and deployment processes

- Mentored junior developers on version control and coding best practices
- Built custom page builder, form builder, and rebate system using CodeIgniter

Digital One Internet Services — Senior Software Engineer

Orland Park, IL | Mar 2008 – Aug 2009

- Built pay-per-view streaming system integrating with Authorize.net and PayPal
- Developed cross-platform mobile video platform supporting Android, Blackberry, and iPhone
- Created Youth Sports PPV platform streaming Tennessee and Iowa state football championship playoffs
- Overhauled video encoding pipeline improving quality and processing speed
- Migrated systems to Symfony framework

Earlier Experience

VB Holding — Senior Software Engineer | Aurora, IL | Jan 2010 – Aug 2010

Ateki Corporation — Lead Web Application Developer | Bolingbrook, IL | May 2007 – Feb 2008

Creative Expansion — Lead Web Application Developer | Remote | 2001 – 2006