

William (Bill) Garrison

Laravel Developer

Niagara Falls, ON L2G 5E4 | bgarrison25@gmail.com | 716-401-9499

Professional Summary

Backend developer with 10+ years of experience building and maintaining PHP-based systems, specializing in Laravel, REST APIs, and relational databases. Proven ability to lead technical teams, mentor developers, manage legacy codebases, and deliver clean, scalable solutions. Strong communicator and problem-solver, passionate about improving code quality and development practices.

Key Accomplishments

- Led the development of a multi-module internal system at NRG Energy that improved processing efficiency by 30%, reducing manual input errors and boosting department productivity.
- Mentored 3 junior developers over 2 years, helping them progress to mid-level roles while improving overall team code quality and cohesion.
- Refactored legacy codebases in PHP and Laravel, improving maintainability and reducing bug reports by 40% over 6 months.
- Reduced technical debt by implementing code reviews and architectural improvements, contributing to a smoother deployment cycle and faster onboarding for new developers.
- Spearheaded adoption of Git workflows at JBM Computer Consultants, significantly improving code version control and reducing merge conflicts.
- Developed and optimized MySQL queries that reduced load times on reporting features by up to 50%.

Professional Experience

Technical Team Lead | NRG Energy - Buffalo, NY | Nov 2017 - Present

- Led development initiatives in PHP and SQL to support business-critical systems.
- Authored application programs using modern OOP practices and Laravel conventions.
- Partnered with stakeholders to estimate development timelines and implement solutions.
- Proposed database and architecture changes to enhance performance and maintainability.
- Mentored junior developers and participated in quality assurance for new features.
- Helped prioritize technical debt and participated in code reviews.

Senior PHP Developer | JBM Computer Consultants - Buffalo, NY | Sep 2015 - Feb 2017

- Developed and maintained APIs using Laravel.
- Acted as Git master for codebase integrity and version control.

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- Trained junior PHP developers and helped establish coding standards.

Software Engineer II | Cognigen Corporation - Buffalo, NY | Aug 2013 - Oct 2014

- Maintained and enhanced internal applications used by scientists.
- Improved legacy code through refactoring and technical cleanup.

PHP Developer | LexisNexis - Buffalo, NY | Jul 2011 - Dec 2011

- Used Zend Framework and REST APIs to build new searches for mobile and web apps.
- Implemented secure systems for guest checkout and SSN masking.
- Migrated functionality from legacy systems and optimized file handling workflows.

Web Developer (Contract) | Comand Solutions - Remote | Apr 2011 - May 2011

- Delivered a prototype site using PHP, JavaScript, jQuery, and CSS.
- Contributed to CMS-driven redesign projects.

PHP Developer | Synacor Inc - Buffalo, NY | Jan 2007 - Mar 2011

- Served as lead developer on high-priority portal integration for major clients.
- Created registration flows, migration tools, and backend APIs.
- Coordinated with multiple departments to deliver production-ready tools.
- Used proprietary MVC framework with unit testing, localization, and templating.

Education

Associate's Degree - Computer Science | SUNY Fredonia - Fredonia, NY

Technical Training - United States Air Force | 2001 - 2004

Technical Skills

- Languages & Frameworks: PHP (8+), Laravel, JavaScript, jQuery, CSS, HTML, XML
- Databases: MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, SQLite
- Tools & Environments: Git, Visual Studio Code, MySQL Workbench, WinSCP, SuperPutty
- Concepts: REST APIs, MVC, OOP, Design Patterns, Code Reviews, Technical Leadership
- Platforms: LAMP/WAMP stacks, some AWS experience

Military Service

United States Air Force | Rank: E-3 | Sep 2001 - Dec 2005