

Ben J. Shepherd

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Personal Statement

Self-taught full-stack developer with a strong foundation in PHP (Laravel), React, and TypeScript. Experienced with Symfony, Node.js, MySQL, PostgreSQL, and MongoDB. Known for building scalable internal tools and performant APIs, with a proven ability to solve complex technical challenges. Comfortable in fast-paced environments and highly motivated to continuously learn and contribute to impactful, user-centric software.

Technical Proficiencies

Frontend: React.js, TypeScript, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Responsive UI, tailwindcss

Backend: PHP (Laravel, Symfony + Sulu CMS), Node.js (Express), RESTful APIs, Microservices

Databases: MongoDB, PostgreSQL, MySQL, Doctrine ORM

DevOps & Tools: Docker, (AWS, S3, EC2, Lambda exposure), Laravel Forge, Digital Ocean App Platform

Redis, Git Others: Regex, Plesk, cPanel, XDebug, PHPUnit, Electron

AI Assistants: Cursor, Claude models

Work Experience

Software Engineer - [Cleancooling.org](https://cleancooling.org) (July 2025 - August 2026)

- Backend tech: PHP 9.5, Symfony 7, Doctrine ORM, Postgres, Redis, RabbitMQ Messenger, EasyAdmin 5, Symfony Workflow

- Frontend Tech: Stimulus, TypeScript, SymfonyUX (Turbo, LiveComponent), Twig Components, Bootstraps, Leaflet, Jest/JSDOM

- Built and evolved a multi-app Symfony platform (website/CMS, students app, messaging, registration) with shared packages and event driven messaging.

- Delivered multi-step registration, academic course applications with admin workflows, talent search for employer usage.

- Owned Moodle and Zitadel integrations (REST APIs, webhooks, apps communication) via Symfony Events and Moodle APIs

- Complete redesigned of clean cooling's website from the ground using Symfony and Sulu CMS, integrating closely linked apps (students, employer, admin workflows, moodle)

Software Engineer - Plan.com (Oct 2024 - Feb 2025)

- Refactored legacy systems for better maintainability and performance.

- Designed and implemented RESTful APIs for frontend applications.

- Standardised architecture to improve code quality and

collaboration. Technologies: Laravel, React, Next.js, Docker, PHPUnit, XDebug

Full Stack Developer - Shift Group Ltd (Jun 2019 - Jun 2024)

- Built internal dashboards and configurable tools (form builders, dynamic tables).
- Developed routing and pricing algorithms to optimise logistics efficiency.
- Designed APIs for warehouse and driver management (IKEA Collect Near You).
- Created B2B microservices for real-time asset and zone tracking.
- Led experimental R&D scripts for third-party site integration.

Technologies: PHP, Laravel, Symfony, API-Platform, JavaScript, TypeScript, Redis, Docker, Node.js, MongoDB, PostgreSQL

Freelance Developer (2010 - 2019)

- Created HabboCreate: a social platform for gamers including chat, music, virtual economy, and profile customization.
- Built websites for teacher recruitment, sports apps, Japanese learning tools, and pricing scrapers. Technologies: PHP, Laravel, HTML/CSS/JS, jQuery, MySQL, Apache, Plesk, cPanel

Education

North West Kent College (Sep 2009 - Jun 2011)

- ITSST Hardware Level 2 - Distinction*
- Technician Award Level 2

Personal Projects

Larascript - A Node.js + TypeScript framework inspired by Laravel

Website: <https://www.larascriptnode.com>

GitHub: <https://github.com/ben-shepherd/larascript-framework>

Hobbies & Interests

Building open-source projects and frameworks

Gaming, electronic music, and creative coding experiments

References

Available upon request.