

Fisnik Laci

Senior Software Engineer

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

PHP-specialist full stack engineer with 8+ years of production experience across fintech, higher education, and independent software. Expert in Symfony and Drupal — building and maintaining complex applications, shipping custom modules, and owning the deployment infrastructure around them. Hands-on with AI integration: built a production Drupal RAG module (Claude, OpenAI, Ollama, Qdrant) and an AI-driven job search platform with automated CV scoring and cover letter generation. Equally comfortable deep in a codebase or wiring up CI/CD pipelines and Linux servers. Fintech background at Raiffeisen Bank; currently at Princeton University's CS Department.

EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer

Princeton University — Computer Science Department

Aug 2022 — Present · Princeton, NJ

Own the CS Department's production web portfolio — Symfony and Drupal applications serving faculty, staff, and students — and the CI/CD and deployment infrastructure around it.

- Build and maintain a suite of Symfony applications covering authentication, access management, departmental tooling, and the faculty website.
- Develop Drupal modules from scratch — custom authentication integrations, external data feeds, and an AI-powered RAG chat module (Anthropic Claude, OpenAI, Ollama, Qdrant) — all shipped and running in production.
- Established CI/CD with GitHub Actions and Deployer, achieving 65% faster deployments and a 40% performance improvement from targeted caching and query optimisation.
- Led the university-wide migration of multiple Drupal 7 sites to Drupal 10, coordinating with stakeholders to ensure minimal disruption across all properties.

Senior PHP Developer

Proxify IO

Sep 2021 — Dec 2022 · Remote · Part-time contract

Senior PHP contractor placed through Proxify's European talent network — Phalcon, Laravel, and Vue.js client projects, run concurrently with the Raiffeisen role.

- Shipped a Phalcon MVC admin dashboard with significantly expanded administrative capabilities and a redesigned UI.
- Designed and implemented a hardened two-factor authentication (2FA) system, strengthening account security across the platform.
- Delivered a Laravel + Vue.js site end-to-end — architecture, feature development, and ongoing maintenance.

Software Engineer & Team Lead

Raiffeisen Bank

Sep 2019 — Jul 2022 · Tirana, Albania

Owned the bank's public web portfolio end-to-end — design, development, and maintenance across a platform serving 50–70K monthly visitors — while mentoring junior developers and driving campaign releases.

- Led design and development of the public website and product campaign pages, sustaining performance and reliability at 50–70K monthly visitors.
- Integrated the site with core banking and third-party systems, building reliable data flows across multiple platforms.
- Redesigned the public site for campaign-scale traffic — 45% faster page loads and a 25% lift in digital applications.

- Mentored junior developers through code reviews and hands-on guidance, raising team delivery consistency and code quality.
- Designed and implemented RESTful APIs for integration with core banking systems and executive reporting dashboards.

Web Developer

ASH — Albania Software House

May 2019 — Sep 2019 · Tirana, Albania

Early-career full-lifecycle development on the Zend MVC framework — from requirements through deployment.

- Full-lifecycle work on Zend MVC: requirements, design, development, testing, and deployment.
- Schema design, indexing strategies, and SQL reporting across client projects.

PROJECTS

JobCopilot

AI-powered job search automation platform. Uses LLMs to score CVs against job descriptions and auto-generate tailored cover letters, with a full Kanban pipeline for managing applications. Stack: Symfony 7, API Platform 3, React 18, TypeScript, PostgreSQL, Redis, Symfony Messenger.

Drupal RAG Chat

Drupal 10 module that turns any content-heavy site into an AI-answerable knowledge base. Embeds and indexes content, retrieves relevant chunks per query, and generates grounded answers with source links. LLM, embeddings, and vector store are fully swappable — Claude, OpenAI, Ollama, Qdrant — with an analytics dashboard tracking queries and surfacing content gaps.

Micro-Habits

SwiftUI iOS app for building small daily habits. Features habit templates, motivational prompts, and an archive system for completed habit runs.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Backend	PHP — Symfony, Laravel, Phalcon, Zend · MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL · Linux server administration · Docker · REST API design
Frontend	JavaScript · React · TypeScript · Vue.js · Angular · jQuery · HTML5/CSS3 · Twig · Bootstrap
CMS	Drupal 7–10 (custom modules, major version migrations) · WordPress
DevOps/CI-CD	GitHub Actions · Deployer · Jenkins · Docker · DDEV · Linux hardening · server monitoring
AI / LLM	Anthropic Claude API · OpenAI · Ollama · Qdrant · RAG pipeline design · embeddings · vector search · API Platform 3
Mobile	SwiftUI · Swift · iOS

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Information Technology

University of Tirana · 2014 – 2018