



BENJAMIN GAKAMI

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/gakami
Github: www.github.com/jafar690
Email: hello@bengakami.me
Website: www.bengakami.me

SUMMARY

Senior Software Engineer with 7+ years of experience delivering SaaS solutions that blend technical excellence with business impact. Led engineering teams to rebuild platforms that boosted recurring subscriptions by 1100% and shipped cross-platform apps in Flutter. Adept at Laravel, Vue.js, and AWS cloud infrastructure, with strong skills in DevOps, product design, and client collaboration.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Lead Software Engineer & Product Engineer | Blue Book Publications, Inc. Apr 2023 - Present

- Led a team of 4 developers to rebuild core web applications (Laravel, Livewire, Vue.js), resulting in a 1,100% increase in recurring subscriptions.
- Developed a cross-platform mobile app in Flutter & Dart, improving customer experience and accessibility.
- Managed AWS infrastructure (S3, RDS, Lambda, CloudWatch) and implemented CI/CD pipelines, improving developer productivity by automating build, test, and deployment processes.
- Introduced a customer feedback system that shaped product improvements and boosted retention.
- Assisted in recruiting and mentoring developers, strengthening the engineering team.

Engineering Lead & Product Engineer | Syntax LTD Nov 2020 - March 2023

- Led a 10-person development team, mentoring juniors and fostering clean code practices.
- Owned the full product lifecycle, from client requirements to design, development, QA, and deployment.
- Collaborated with clients to architect scalable SaaS solutions aligned with business goals.
- Introduced PHPStan, CI pipelines, and code reviews, significantly improving code quality.
- Managed infrastructure, CI/CD, and deployments across multiple client projects.

Software Engineer | The Coding Machine June 2019 - Oct 2020

- Developed and maintained the Laravel backend and Vue.js SPA frontend, ensuring a seamless user experience.
- Implemented GraphQL APIs and integrated Algolia search, improving search speed and accuracy.
- Collaborated in Agile teams (Jira, 2-week sprints), contributing to planning, feature iterations, and delivery.
- Expanded expertise in GraphQL and Algolia through hands-on development.
- Contributed to JOBBREADY (jobready.fr), a skills recognition platform supporting social and professional integration across France.

Software Engineer (Laravel & Vue.js) | Syntax LTD Nov 2018 - May 2019

- Contributed to multiple client projects built with Laravel and Vue.js.
- Developed APIs and frontend features, ensuring seamless user experiences.
- Implemented GraphQL APIs and integrated Algolia for full-text search.
- Collaborated in Agile teams using Jira, participating in 2-week sprints and feature iterations.
- Gained early experience with DevOps by assisting in infrastructure setup and deployments.

- Delivered custom web and mobile applications for international clients, primarily using Laravel and Vue.js.
- Collaborated directly with clients to gather requirements, propose solutions, and deliver software aligned with business needs.
- Built scalable APIs and single-page applications, with integrations including payment gateways, inventory systems, and third-party APIs.
- Gained experience working across diverse industries and project types, strengthening adaptability and communication skills.

Backend Engineer | Geia.ai**June 2017 - Dec 2017**

- Built and designed APIs in Laravel to support the user dashboard and IoT farming hardware.
- Rebuilt the backend from scratch to replace limitations of a code generator, improving scalability and maintainability.
- Implemented MQTT protocol communication, enabling smart farming sensors and hardware to sync with the cloud.
- Collaborated with a frontend developer (Angular) to deliver a responsive user dashboard connected to real-time data.
- Gained hands-on experience in IoT backend development, API design, and real-time cloud communication.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science**Sep 2015 - Dec 2018**

Dedan Kimathi University Of Technology (DeKUT)

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS & VENTURES

Founder | SalesZote**Jan 2025 - Present**

- Created a cloud-based POS & inventory management SaaS tailored for East African SMEs.
- Architected a multi-tenant system in Laravel (Filament + Livewire) with Vue.js selectively used for the POS interface.
- Integrated local payment systems such as M-Pesa, making the platform regionally accessible.
- Implemented features including stock counts, shrinkage reporting, and ledger tracking to improve retail efficiency.
- Led marketing experiments (social media campaigns, referral programs, Google Ads) to validate market fit and drive early adoption.

Founder & Developer | Dropexpress**Jan 2022 - Dec 2024**

- Designed and implemented a logistics platform prototype to optimize pooled deliveries and reduce costs for SMEs.
- Built real-time driver tracking with Node.js, MongoDB, and Socket.io, enabling live location updates and driver status monitoring.
- Integrated RabbitMQ with Laravel to dispatch driver requests, processing them in Node.js to find the nearest driver and push requests instantly via websockets.
- Developed a cross-platform driver app in Flutter, featuring custom Mapbox navigation for turn-by-turn routing.
- Experimented with AI-driven routing and scheduling to improve delivery efficiency.
- Gained hands-on experience with event-driven architecture, microservices integration, and scalable real-time systems.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Languages & Frameworks:** PHP, Laravel, Livewire, Filament, Vue.js, Inertia.js, Tailwind CSS, Dart, Flutter, Node.js
- **Databases & Messaging:** MySQL, MongoDB, RabbitMQ, Redis, Algolia
- **Cloud & DevOps:** AWS (S3, RDS, Lambda, CloudWatch, EC2), Docker, CI/CD pipelines, Nginx
- **APIs & Protocols:** REST, GraphQL, MQTT, WebSockets (Socket.io), Mapbox SDK
- **Other Competencies:** SaaS Architecture, Multi-tenant Systems, Agile/Scrum, Team Leadership & Mentorship, Product Lifecycle Management