

DENIS LIPATOV

AI Backend Engineer · Senior Software Engineer (PHP / Laravel)

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SUMMARY

Backend engineer, developing since 2012 (PHP/Laravel since 2016, Vue.js front-ends alongside the backend since 2016). At GrowFood I led the R&D direction inside the development team: I owned architecture, partner integrations and microservices, and drove optimization and reliability across all services - speeding up key routes several-fold. I shaped the product, proposing ideas and turning them into shipped features (from marketplace integrations to 10+ production bots), not just closing tickets. I care most about clean, well-optimized code and systems that stay reliable under load.

For the last couple of years AI has been central to how I build: LLM features in production (support bots, image classification, a self-learning ticket-triage model), retrieval over internal data and prompt engineering via MCP, and an AI-assisted dev workflow around Cursor and Claude Code. In parallel with the job search I built and shipped votawallet.app on Laravel 13 and Nuxt 4.

CORE SKILLS

- **AI / LLM:** LLM integration & prompt engineering, LLM-powered product features (support bots, image classification), self-learning ticket triage, retrieval over internal data (RAG), AI-assisted development with MCP (Model Context Protocol) servers, Claude Code, Cursor, Antigravity, spec-driven development (SDD)
- **Backend:** PHP 8, Laravel (framework-source level), Go (microservices), REST API design, OpenAPI / Swagger documentation, queues & workers, relational databases and SQL (MySQL, PostgreSQL), Redis, Kafka, ClickHouse
- **Front-end:** Vue.js alongside Laravel (legko.com, diler.ru, GrowFood), Nuxt 4, Pinia, Vuetify, TypeScript via Nuxt, JavaScript
- **Architecture:** service design, DDD/TDD/SOLID, performance optimization, complex data aggregation, integrations & single-entry-point gateways (designed for several partners from the first one), legacy refactoring and major-version migrations
- **Infrastructure / DevOps:** Docker, Kubernetes, Linux, GCP, Terraform, networking, CI/CD, git-flow, Datadog, Telescope
- **Leadership:** team building & hiring, mentoring, technical documentation, stakeholder & partner communication, project management

EXPERIENCE

Senior Backend Engineer · [GrowFood](#)

Sep 2022 - Jun 2026

growfood.pro - healthy meal-prep delivery service (Moscow & St. Petersburg)

- Leading the team's R&D direction: modernized PHP/Laravel across all services, upgraded core infrastructure (Redis queues, Kafka, Datadog, Telescope, ARM builds, config caching, secrets in env), and removed N+1 and other bottlenecks - cutting latency across many routes and improving reliability.
- Launched and unified the company's marketplace and service integrations - Sbermarket/Kuper, Magnit, T-Vitrina, Jira, 1C - over both incoming and outgoing webhooks, behind a single integration entry point designed for several partners from the first one (versioned implementations, shared base classes); a second and third partner followed without a heavy rewrite, opening new sales channels. Extended the existing billing and payment flows and the 1C accounting integration.
- Automated the HelpDesk - ticket routing, escalation and a self-learning model that classifies incoming tickets, plus AI-assisted triage of DevOps incidents - cutting manual work for support and sysadmins.
- Set up AI-assisted development (custom rules, skills and MCP (Model Context Protocol) servers linking Cursor, Claude Code and Antigravity to internal knowledge bases), measurably speeding up delivery; shipped production LLM features such as support bots and image classification (e.g. detecting dishes in photos).
- Shipped 10+ production Telegram bots (HelpDesk, sysadmins, BackOffice, driver referral, vending, office/1C) on a unified platform; worked on the product's separately deployed Vue front-end alongside the backend.

Senior Laravel Developer · Alyce

Sep 2021 - Jul 2022

alyce.com - B2B corporate-gifting SaaS (Boston, US)

- Delivered new functionality and extended existing modules of a production SaaS codebase; contributed to architecture decisions and maintained legacy code, working in English with a US-based team.
- Prepared internal presentations on working effectively within the Laravel ecosystem.

Senior PHP Developer · Coalition Education Center (Matetech)

Jul 2019 - Sep 2021

matetech.ru - EdTech / online learning

- Launched matetech.ru from scratch (architecture and database design included) - a multi-tenant learning platform with sub-companies and subdomains, using Laravel Policies, Notifications and Resource APIs.
- Built an automatic code-generation system; drove architecture and team growth, introducing git-flow, DevOps practices and regular planning meetings.

Backend Developer · Media Target (Pushex)

Dec 2017 - Jun 2019

pushex.io - push-notification / messaging platform

- Built pushex.io from the ground up on the latest Laravel, with Go microservices and a custom worker model for faster, personalized push delivery.
- Owned and curated payment-adjacent APIs; set the team's git-flow and documentation standards, recruited engineers and worked with DevOps for smooth deployments.

Backend Developer (freelance) · TriLan

Aug 2017 - Dec 2017

diler.ru - automotive catalog service (Laravel 5.5)

- Built the diler.ru service from scratch on Laravel 5.5 with a Vue.js front-end, plus a universal catalog parser, configurable by a non-technical manager, that collected data through a different path per source site; sped up the main site and carried out substantial refactoring and systems-design work.

Laravel Developer · legko.com

Nov 2016 - Jun 2017

legko.com - web service built on Laravel

- Built the service from scratch on Laravel with a Vue.js front-end and launched it - architecture, database, admin and user areas, blog, tests, and a web interface for client-designer collaboration (about 80% of the codebase); supported and evolved the product after launch.

Project Manager · Svetets

Jan 2015 - Dec 2016

web & design projects

- Ran projects end to end: requirements, documentation and task planning; coordinated freelancers and the in-house team; worked directly with clients and drove design and usability decisions.

Earlier roles · Dance11, NeedHelp, Logrus.ru, MEPhI Engineering Center

2012 - 2015

- Backend / PHP developer and project manager on early-stage web products - built services from scratch, assembled and tested development teams, led small teams and freelancers.
- Started out as a mobile (Android) developer at the NRNU MEPhI Engineering Center, building small Android applications; early project-management experience that now strengthens AI work: writing clear specs and rigorously evaluating model outputs.

EDUCATION & LANGUAGES

- **Synergy University** - Applied Informatics (Bachelor's degree)
- **National Research Nuclear University MEPhI** - Computer Systems & Technologies (admitted on a competitive state-funded place)
- **Additional:** Summer Computer School (LKSh, track C), Mytishchi School of Programmers
- **Languages:** Russian (native), English (B2, Upper Intermediate - certified, ATC Language & Travel, Ireland), Serbian (basic)