Abdullah Rather

AI Software Engineer | PHP Backend / Full-Stack Engineer
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Software Engineer with 5+ years of experience building enterprise web applications, internal platforms and database-driven business systems in PHP (Yii, Laravel, Symfony) and MySQL/MariaDB. Currently AI Software Engineer at APS AG, bringing AI features into the company's central business platform and building new modules, including an in-house HR and time-tracking system. Experienced in legacy modernization, REST API integrations, role-based access control and reliable transactional code. Studying for an M.Sc. in Artificial Intelligence at BTU Cottbus.

Technical Skills

Core Technologies
PHP, Yii, Laravel, Symfony, Lumen, MySQL/MariaDB, PostgreSQL, REST APIs, OOP, Git, Docker, GitHub Actions, PHPUnit, PHPStan

AI
LLM API integration, prompt design, AI-assisted search, Python (FastAPI, Flask)

Frontend
JavaScript, TypeScript, React, jQuery/AJAX, HTML5, CSS3/SCSS, Bootstrap

Other
Linux/CentOS, CI/CD, RBAC, WordPress, Livewire, Tailwind CSS

Experience

AI Software Engineer 10.2026 – Present
APS AG | Neckarsulm, Germany | Full-time

- Built an in-house HR module in the company's central business platform, replacing an external time-tracking tool: clock-in/out with breaks, time accounts with target hours, public holidays and statutory break rules, a live attendance overview, logged time corrections, and vacation and absence management.
- Developed AI features for the platform, including AI-based ticket assignment suggestions with server-side access control.
- Designed and built an AI-assisted search across customer history (tickets and order items).
- Integrated a telephony system and moved the UI to a modern Bootstrap 5 admin template.
- Ensured production quality through code reviews, automated tests and concurrency-safe database transactions.

Software Engineer 07.2024 – 09.2026
APS Services GmbH | Neckarsulm, Germany | Part-time (Remote)

- Developed and maintained the group's central business platform (invoicing, ticketing, time tracking and more), running as separate instances for several group companies.
- Built REST integrations, including DATEV-related workflows, and contributed to authentication, role-based access control and internal process automation.
- Developed reporting, export and dashboard features; improved performance through query optimization and removal of N+1 queries.
- Modernized legacy areas through OOP refactoring, automated tests and continuous integration.
- Built responsive AJAX-based interfaces for day-to-day operations across multiple modules.

Technical Team Lead 01.2023 – 04.2024
Qualven Pvt Ltd | Islamabad, Pakistan | Full-time

- Led a team of five through the design, development, deployment and support of business web applications, while staying hands-on in development.
- Designed REST APIs and relational database schemas for growing data volumes; managed deployments on Docker and Linux/CentOS with CI/CD.
- Ran code reviews, set coding standards and wrote technical documentation; turned client requirements into deliverable solutions.

Software Engineer 11.2021 – 01.2023
Qualven Pvt Ltd | Islamabad, Pakistan | Full-time

- Developed frontend and backend features for client web applications in PHP and JavaScript.
- Acted as the team's point of contact when leads were absent, keeping coordination and delivery on track.

Software Engineer 04.2022 – 04.2024
The Science School | Islamabad, Pakistan | Full-time (Remote)

- Developed and maintained the school's Education Management Information System in PHP, covering student, staff, finance and user-administration modules.
- Managed the relational database with a focus on data integrity and performance.
- Implemented authentication and role-based access control for administrators and staff.
- Worked with school management on requirements, new features and fixes; carried out system upgrades and troubleshooting.

Technical Intern 01.2021 – 07.2021
Qualven Pvt Ltd | Islamabad, Pakistan | Internship

- Contributed to full-stack feature development: PHP backend logic and HTML/CSS, JavaScript and Bootstrap frontends.
- Supported deployments, technical documentation, user training and client presentations.

Languages

English C1 | **German** A2 and Improving | **Urdu** Native

Education

Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus–Senftenberg | Cottbus, Germany
M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence 04.2024 – Present

IQRA University | Karachi, Pakistan
B.Sc. Computer Science 08.2016 – 05.2021