

UDITHA MILANKA PATHIRANA

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SUMMARY

Full Stack Developer with over 4 years of experience building web apps from start to finish. I work on both the frontend and backend using React, Next.js, and TypeScript for the user side, and Node.js, Laravel, and Python for the server side, with PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB and Firebase for data. I have built a SaaS platform where a Next.js frontend creates and syncs plans to WooCommerce through custom REST APIs, with checkout handed back to WordPress and users returned to the app after payment. I have also built a headless WordPress site with a Gatsby frontend, and a custom WordPress theme that made pages load up to 70% faster and cut development time by over 50%. On the DevOps side, I have managed 15+ servers across Ubuntu, CentOS, and Arch Linux, set up CI/CD pipelines (dev, QA, UAT, prod) with GitHub Actions, and used Docker for WordPress and Next.js + NestJS + PostgreSQL projects. I am currently studying for an MSc in Computer Science and completing AWS Academy training. I have also done introductory work in mobile development with Flutter and React Native.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- **Frontend Development:** React.js | Next.js (App & Pages Router) | Gatsby | TypeScript | Sanity | JavaScript (ES6+) | HTML5 | CSS3 | SSR | SSG | Responsive Design
- **Backend Development:** Node.js | Express.js | Laravel | PHP | Python | REST API Design | GraphQL | WordPress REST API | Server-side Authentication | JWT
- **Database Management:** MySQL | PostgreSQL | MongoDB | Firebase | Schema Design | Query Optimization
- **CMS & Integrations:** WordPress | WooCommerce | Sanity | ACF Pro | Headless CMS Workflows | Payment & Checkout Flows
- **DevOps & Tooling:** Git | GitHub | GitHub Actions CI/CD | Docker | Linux (Ubuntu, CentOS, Arch) | Nginx | Apache | Bash | GCP | AWS (in training) | UptimeRobot | Agile/Scrum

EDUCATION

- **MSc in Computer Science** | University of Sri Jayewardenepura **2024 - Present**
- **BSc (Hons) in Engineering - Civil Engineering** | University of Peradeniya **2015 - 2020**
- **AWS Academy - Cloud Computing Coursework** | Certification **In Progress**

WORK EXPERIENCES

Full Stack Developer | Smashy Design (Pvt) Ltd. | Sri Lanka

Nov 2022 - Present

- Built a customer facing SaaS platform from start to finish - Next.js + TypeScript frontend with a headless WordPress backend, where admins create plans from Next.js frontend. Plans are saved in the WooCommerce using inbuilt REST API and fetched again using a custom WordPress API where necessary. Customers select plans from the Next.js frontend, complete checkout in WooCommerce, and are returned to the app after payment.
- Designed and built an internal time, task, and leave tracking tool - Next.js frontend backed by a Laravel REST API and MySQL replacing scattered spreadsheet workflows and giving project managers daily visibility into team hours.
- Built an internal DevOps console with a Python backend (rsync, database dumps, build scripts) and a Next.js frontend, turning backups, deployments, and updates into simple point click actions for less technical teammates.
- Built a headless CMS solution using Sanity as the backend and Next.js as the frontend, designing custom content schemas and GROQ queries to give editors structured authoring while keeping the frontend fully decoupled and performant.
- Designed a custom WordPress + Gatsby theme framework using ACF Pro for flexible content modelling, cutting new project setup time by about 50% and making pages load up to 70% faster through static generation.
- Delivered 30+ WordPress backends and several matching frontends using ACF Pro, giving non technical editors flexible page builders without locking them into a page builder plugin.
- Set up GitHub Actions CI/CD pipelines (Dev → QA → UAT → Prod) and Docker-based build environments - cutting manual deployment time by over 90%.

- Rolled out Uptime Robot monitoring across 45+ production sites, catching outages within minutes and maintaining 99.99% uptime.
- Resolved recurring staging server outages caused by log accumulation across 45+ hosted sites - built a custom storage monitoring service with an in house SMTP setup that sends email alerts before disk space runs out, eliminating storage-related staging downtime.

Freelance Developer | Self-Employed | Sri Lanka

Jun 2021 - Nov 2022

- Built and delivered 12+ client websites from start to finish - responsive frontends, backend integrations with REST API endpoints, and live deployment on Linux hosting.
- Improved page load speed by up to 70% through image optimization, lightweight framework choices, and Core Web Vitals tuning.
- Worked directly with clients to gather requirements, plan timelines, and deliver projects on schedule.
- Earned multiple repeat engagements and new client referrals through consistent on-time delivery and quality work.

Structural and Geotechnical Design Engineer | SCG Engineers (Pvt) Ltd | Sri Lanka

Oct 2020 - May 2021

- Automated repetitive design calculations with custom spreadsheet macros and scripts, cutting manual computation time by about 30% and reducing input errors.
- Built data-driven workflows for structural simulations and material optimization, contributing to about 15% reduction in material cost on assigned projects.
- Discovered that programming gave me a much bigger impact on real-world problems, which led me to transition into full-time software development.

PROJECTS

SaaS eCommerce Platform | Next.js, TypeScript, PostgreSQL, WooCommerce, REST API

- Architected a two way sync between a Next.js admin app and WooCommerce - admins compose plans from existing products, plans persist as WooCommerce products via the standard REST API, and custom WordPress endpoints expose plan data back to the frontend.
- Designed the cross domain checkout hand off where cart state passed to WooCommerce, payment handled inside WordPress, and customers redirected back to the Next.js app's order confirmation page - keeping the polished frontend experience while leveraging WooCommerce's battle tested payment stack.

Custom WordPress + Gatsby Theme Framework | Gatsby, React, WordPress, PHP, ACF Pro

- Built a reusable theme framework where ACF Pro field groups map to custom Gutenberg blocks and custom templates letting editors compose pages from typed, designer approved components instead of free-form page-builder chaos.
- Sourced WordPress content into Gatsby at build time for static generation, eliminating server-side rendering cost on content sites and achieving up to 70% faster page loads vs. the previous PHP rendered baseline.

Personal Expense Tracker (in development) | NestJS, Next.js, React Native, PostgreSQL

- Building a fullstack expense tracking system end-to-end: NestJS + PostgreSQL backend exposing a typed REST API, a Next.js web client for desktop use, and a React Native mobile app all sharing a single backend.

Self-Hosted Development Infrastructure | Docker, Linux, WordPress, Next.js, NestJS, PostgreSQL, Kubernetes (planned)

- Set up and maintain a personal server running multiple stacks in Docker, WordPress instances and Next.js + NestJS + PostgreSQL apps. It is used for personal projects and as a testbed for new tooling.
- Currently migrating to Kubernetes to deepen container orchestration experience beyond Docker Compose.