

James Lewis

Hands-on engineering leader with 15+ years of experience

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I build and scale PHP applications from the database to the browser, in PHP, Laravel, and TypeScript with Angular, Vue, and React. I like the hard, unglamorous work: zero-downtime upgrades, slow queries made fast, and APIs other systems depend on.

Experience highlights

Upgraded PHP 7.2 to 8.4 with zero downtime	Cox Automotive
Eliminated 100+ security vulnerabilities	Cox Automotive
Cut AWS costs in half	Honeyfund
Doubled release velocity	Honeyfund
Unified 14,000+ products into one source of truth	Diversitech
Built three engineering teams with zero turnover	Honeyfund

Stack

Backend	PHP, Laravel, TypeScript, Node.js, Python
Frontend	TypeScript, JavaScript, Angular, Vue, React
Data	MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Databricks
Cloud and DevOps	AWS, Docker, Kubernetes, Linux, CI/CD

Experience

Thirdware Labs Founder and Principal Engineer	Sept 2026 – Present
Independent software engineering and technical leadership consulting.	
Honeyfund Director of Technology	Dec 2023 – Sept 2026
- Led the design and build of a new API-first application architecture. - Slashed AWS costs 50% and doubled release velocity with continuous releases. - Implemented modern observability and brought Claude into daily development.	
Senior Full Stack Developer, promoted to Director of Technology	

Experience, continued

Cox Automotive Lead Software Engineer

Nov 2021 – Dec 2023

- Upgraded the backend API from PHP 7.2 to 8.4 across Laravel and Symfony with zero downtime.
- Scaled Laravel applications for growing traffic with query optimization and caching.
- Migrated the core frontend to TypeScript and Angular, eliminating 100+ vulnerabilities and boosting developer efficiency 30%.

Diversitech Lead Software Engineer

May 2021 – Nov 2021

- Built Node.js middleware integrating the Salsify API with JD Edwards ERP, creating one source of truth for 14,000+ products.
- Developed an eCommerce application on the Oro and Symfony frameworks.

Envisage International Software Engineer

Feb 2016 – May 2021

- Built PHP APIs delivering real-time lead data to university partners, boosting partner retention 80%.
- Designed and built a subscription payment system with payment gateway integration.
- Migrated applications from Yii to Yii2 and ran containerized services on Docker.

The Parts House Software Engineer

Feb 2014 – Feb 2016

- Automated 100% of the Amazon dropship process, freeing a two-person team for higher-value work.
- Built in-house inventory management software that kept the most in-demand products in stock.

Sklar Instruments Web Developer

Jul 2013 – May 2014

- Improved performance, SEO, and conversion across multiple sites by testing designs against analytics data.
- Maintained Magento stores and built WordPress plugins and widgets.

Education

University of North Florida, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science

Jacksonville, Florida