Davey Shafik

davey@php.net   Oregon, USA

Profile

Technical leader with 25+ years of experience building scalable systems, leading cross-functional teams, and driving developer productivity. Known as creator of PHP Archive (PHAR) and Release Manager for PHP 7.1, with deep expertise in PHP, Laravel, and cloud infrastructure. Proven track record of reducing costs, improving developer workflows, and delivering high-impact products at scale. Experienced at aligning engineering strategy with business outcomes while mentoring teams and influencing industry adoption.

Experience

FOUNDER, BEACON HQ — APR 2024-PRESENT

- Designed and built Beacon, an open source + SaaS feature flag management platform deeply integrated with Laravel Pennant.
- Led architecture and implementation of core services, ensuring scalable evaluation of feature flags across distributed environments.
- Delivered Beam, a frontend helper library (React/Vue/JS) enabling Pennant-powered feature flagging in modern apps.
- Launched Beacon Metrics, a developer-focused Laravel package for calculating metrics and projection data.

SENIOR STAFF ENGINEER, BLACKCART INC — JAN 2021-APR 2024

- Scaled event-driven Shopify integration (Google Cloud Pub/Sub & Tasks) to support enterprise e-commerce traffic.
- Partnered with leadership to align engineering direction with business needs, ensuring resilient and performant systems.
- Designed infra and DevOps workflows to reduce operational overhead and increase reliability under peak demand.
- Collaborated across UX, Marketing, and Infra to deliver features quickly in a lean environment.

STAFF DEVELOPER ADVOCATE , LYFT, INC — SEPT 2019-JAN 2021

- Defined developer productivity strategy for Python and Golang ecosystems.
- Reduced cloud development environment costs by standardizing tooling and eliminating bespoke workflows.
- Led migration to open, best-practice environments, boosting adoption and reducing support issues.

- Built internal communications to drive developer awareness and feature adoption.

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPER EVANGELIST, AKAMAI TECHNOLOGIES — JUL 2015-SEPT 2019

- Architected and delivered Akamai CLI (Golang) with secure self-updating and meta package manager.
- Established UX/DX guidelines adopted across Akamai developer tooling and SDKs.
- Built integrations with Terraform, WordPress, and other ecosystems to accelerate adoption.
- Directed global developer programs (Akami World Tour, Launchpad), combining technical leadership with community advocacy.

COMMUNITY ENGINEER, ENGINE YARD — APR 2013-JUN 2015

- Defined ROI metrics for developer relations and influenced product GTM strategy.
- Represented Engine Yard at global conferences, building trust in PHP and broader developer communities.
- Produced technical content and organized Distill conference.
- Co-founded Prompt, an initiative to address mental health in technology.

SENIOR ENGINEER, ENGINE YARD — OCT 2011-APR 2013

- Built and maintained public and internal APIs, orchestrating AWS infrastructure and PHP-based systems.
- Developed features for the Orchestra PHP Cloud platform, including SSL support and PHP 5.4 compatibility.
- Collaborated cross-functionally with product and systems teams to deliver resilient, developer-friendly tooling.

Notable Achievements & Open Source Impact

- Creator of PHP Archive (PHAR): Bundled with PHP 5.3, enabling native packaging/distribution of PHP applications and libraries.
- PHP 7.1 Release Manager: lead the rollout of the first PHP 7 minor release.
- Contributor to: PHP core, Laravel (core, Pint), Pest, PHPUnit, Terraform, Curb (Ruby), Hyper (Python).

Selected Publications

- Upgrading to PHP 7 — O'Reilly Media (2015)
- Zend PHP Certification Study Guide (3rd Edition, 2015)
- PHP Master: Write Cutting Edge Code (2011)
- PHP Anthology: 101 Essential Tips, Tricks & Hacks (2007)