

Derak Kilgo

Senior Web Developer | Technical Lead | AI-Enabled Development
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Professional Summary

Web Developer with 25+ years building and modernizing complex backend systems. Currently leading AI-integrated development workflows, vector database implementations, and containerized deployment pipelines (CDI - Zot). Strong track record bridging technical and non-technical stakeholders, mentoring engineers, and delivering stable solutions that balance innovation with maintainability.

Core Competencies

- AI & Modern Development: AI-assisted coding (Claude, Copilot, ChatGPT), vector databases, LLM integration
- Backend Systems: PHP (19+ yrs), MySQL, REST/SOAP APIs, JavaScript
- DevOps & Infrastructure: Docker, CDI, Zot registry, Linux (RHEL, Ubuntu, Debian)
- Cloud & Deployment: AWS, multi-environment container orchestration, deployment standardization
- Legacy Modernization: Code refactoring, gradual migration, technical debt reduction
- Leadership: Technical mentorship, cross-platform integration, best practices governance

Professional Experience

Education Service Center Region 13 | Austin, TX

Project Coordinator - Web Application Development | Jul 2020 - Present

- Lead development and maintenance of ESC13's flagship product serving district-wide educational needs
- Implemented AI-assisted development workflows (Copilot/Claude/ChatGPT) for routine code generation and refactoring
- Architecting deployment pipeline migration to containerized builds using CDI - Zot container registry
- Standardizing Docker configurations across QA and production environments for consistent deployments
- Integrating vector database solutions for search and retrieval capabilities in application stack
- Mentor development team; establish technical best practices and guide adoption of modern tools
- Modernize legacy applications while ensuring accessibility compliance and stability

Web Developer II | Sep 2009 - Jul 2020

- Led development for 17 of 26 major projects: reporting systems, payment platforms, third-party integrations
- Designed custom APIs for LMS (Canvas), Magento, Shopify, and Texas.gov payment gateway
- Built integrations syncing accounts, enrollment, and grades between proprietary LMS and Canvas LMS
- Established web and database server configuration best practices still in use today
- Employee of the Quarter, March 2020

Website Engineer | Sep 2006 - Sep 2009

- Developed data-driven PHP applications for internal and external stakeholders
- Maintained web infrastructure; built CRUD generator (Yahoo UI Library); implemented Magento store
- Employee of the Quarter, 2007

Precision Micrographics | Austin, TX

Product Development & Support | 2001 - 2006

- Technical support for industrial imaging hardware/software; server administration and security
 - Developed client/server applications, web apps, installers, and user documentation
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Technical Skills

Languages: PHP, JavaScript, SQL, HTML5, CSS, C#/.NET

Frameworks & Libraries: Laravel, Slim, Zend Framework, Vue, jQuery

Databases: MySQL (Admin & Dev), Vector DBs (implementing)

Tools: Git, Docker, Zot, Vagrant, VirtualBox

Servers: Apache (Admin), Linux (RHEL, Ubuntu, Debian, CentOS), AWS

Integrations: REST, SOAP, XML-RPC, LMS (Canvas, Axio), eCommerce (Magento, Shopify), CMS (WordPress, Craft CMS)

Education & Community

Associate of Applied Science - Computer Programming | Austin Community College, 2002

- Assistant Organizer, Austin PHP Meetup (2004 - Present)
- Volunteer, Longhorn PHP Conference (2018 - Present)
- Member, St. Martin's Lutheran Church Pre-School Board (2025 - Present)