

M. USMAN MAZHAR

Senior PHP Developer • Technical Lead • CTO • AI-Assisted Development

Lahore, Pakistan | +92 322 4781350 | usmanmazhar51@gmail.com

11+

Years in Web Development

20+

Live Portfolio Projects

6

Countries Served

AI

Claude & Cursor Workflows

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Results-driven **Senior PHP Developer, Technical Lead and CTO** with **11+ years of experience** designing, building and scaling secure, high-performance web applications with Laravel, CodeIgniter, Symfony and WordPress. Grew from intern to CTO, and today owns technology strategy, architecture, server infrastructure and delivery for a development team serving clients in Germany, Belgium, the UK, Saudi Arabia, the USA and Pakistan.

Delivered an internal WordPress portal for Mercedes-Benz, Laravel + Vue.js e-commerce apps integrated with the B-Inside API, enterprise cybersecurity awareness platforms (Cyber-Fuchs), automated reporting engines, employee management and event booking systems, e-commerce and inventory solutions, and airline flight-API integrations. Experienced in migrating legacy CodeIgniter systems to modern Laravel and microservice architectures, upgrading legacy PHP applications, optimising MySQL performance, and setting up, migrating and managing Linux servers, Docker environments and CI/CD pipelines on AWS and DigitalOcean.

An early adopter of **AI-assisted development ("vibe coding")** using **Claude, Claude Code and Cursor** to prototype features faster, refactor legacy code, generate tests and documentation, and speed up code reviews — while keeping a firm grip on code quality, security and SOLID principles. Combines hands-on engineering with team leadership, Agile/Scrum delivery and clear communication with international stakeholders.

CORE SKILLS

Backend	PHP (5.6 – 8.4), Laravel (Expert, latest versions), CodeIgniter 3 & 4 (Expert), Symfony, Core PHP, MVC, OOP, SOLID
AI-Assisted Development	Vibe Coding, Claude & Claude Code, Cursor AI IDE, Prompt Engineering, AI Pair Programming, AI-Driven Refactoring, Test & Documentation Generation, AI Code Review
Frontend & CMS	WordPress Landing Pages & Websites, Vue.js, React, Angular, JavaScript (ES6+), jQuery, AJAX, HTML5, CSS3, Tailwind CSS, WordPress (Custom Plugins & Themes)
Database & Caching	MySQL (Advanced Query Optimisation), Eloquent ORM, Redis, Database Design & Normalisation
APIs & Integration	RESTful APIs, SOAP, Payment Gateways, Flight/Airline APIs, CRM & Third-Party Integrations
Server Setup & Management	Linux Server Setup & Administration, Server Migrations, PHP Version Upgrades, LAMP/LEMP Stacks, Nginx, Apache, SSL/TLS, MySQL Administration, Backups & Monitoring, WHM/cPanel
DevOps & Cloud	Docker & Docker Compose (containerised WordPress/Laravel), CI/CD, AWS (EC2, S3), DigitalOcean, Git, GitHub, Bitbucket, Composer, NPM
Leadership & Process	Team Leadership & Mentoring, Agile/Scrum, Jira, Trello, SDLC Management, Code Reviews, Technical Documentation, Stakeholder Management

WORK EXPERIENCE

Chief Technical Officer (CTO) | The Xpertz (Schuja.IT), Lahore

Jan 2022 – Present

- ▶ **Technology Strategy:** Define the technology stack and architecture for each project; lead R&D on new frameworks and tools to keep the team current.
- ▶ **Architectural Leadership:** Engineered scalable backend architectures using PHP 8.2 and Laravel 10, supporting high-traffic applications for European clients.
- ▶ **Mercedes-Benz Internal Portal:** Built an internal portal for Mercedes-Benz on WordPress with a custom login system, deployed in Docker with the latest PHP and MySQL versions (details under NDA).

- ▶ **B-Inside E-commerce Apps:** Built a suite of client e-commerce apps in Laravel and Vue.js for Belgian businesses (De Baenst, Het Fruithuis, MCE-UPS, Oscar Fresh Food, Vanderhaegen Potatoes, Vlaemynck), integrated with the B-Inside (b-inside.be) API.
- ▶ **Cyber-Fuchs Portal Redesign:** Redesigned and rebuilt the Cyber-Fuchs customer portal in the latest CodeIgniter 4, modernising the architecture of the original CodeIgniter 3 application.
- ▶ **RiskCircle & SecuCircle:** Built the riskcircle.de and secucircle.de web apps for Vertriebssoftware24 on the latest Laravel version, each with its own WordPress landing page.
- ▶ **Client Websites:** Built and maintain 8 WordPress and HTML websites for Vertriebssoftware24 (Germany), including vertriebssoftware24.de, cyberscanner.de, ransomware-reaction.de and vip-monitoring.com.
- ▶ **Legacy Upgrade & Migration:** Upgraded the PHP version of pcb.com.pk and migrated the application to a new server.
- ▶ **DevOps & Infrastructure:** Spearheaded server migration and infrastructure management on AWS and DigitalOcean, implementing CI/CD pipelines that reduced deployment errors by 40%.
- ▶ **AI-Assisted Engineering:** Introduced Claude, Claude Code and Cursor into the team workflow for rapid prototyping, legacy-code refactoring, test generation and faster code reviews.
- ▶ **Delivery & Team Management:** Run task planning, project documentation, code reviews and technical support; directed the full SDLC of a cybersecurity awareness program with Agile/Scrum for 100% on-time delivery.
- ▶ **Modernisation:** Led the migration from legacy CodeIgniter systems to modern Laravel and microservices architecture, improving maintainability and developer velocity.

Senior PHP Developer & Team Lead | The Xpertz (Schuja.IT), Lahore

Jan 2020 – Dec 2021

- ▶ **Project Leadership:** Spearheaded development of Cyber-Fuchs and Cyber-Fuchs Privat for Vertriebssoftware24 (Germany): WordPress landing pages plus CodeIgniter 3 customer web apps where users log in, attend webinars, earn certificates and study guidelines and cyber-security material on how to recognise cyber attacks.
- ▶ **Event Management:** Delivered XpertBooking, an end-to-end event management and booking system, on time using Agile/Scrum workflows.
- ▶ **Code Governance:** Established a standardised code review process and documentation framework, reducing production bugs by 30%.
- ▶ **Performance:** Built high-performance modules in CodeIgniter and Laravel with optimised database queries and secure API integrations.
- ▶ **Mentorship:** Primary technical escalation point; mentored junior developers on DRY and SOLID principles.

Senior PHP Developer | The Xpertz (Schuja.IT), Lahore

Sep 2017 – Dec 2019

- ▶ **International Delivery:** Developed a custom annual-report generation engine for Canai Digital (Germany) in Laravel, cutting document generation time by 60%.
- ▶ **Cybersecurity:** Built the Cyberschadenssumme security awareness website for a German client, applying secure coding practices and RESTful APIs.
- ▶ **Enterprise HR:** Designed and deployed an Employee Management System (Livasoftware) for VodafoneWest, optimising HR operations and resource tracking.
- ▶ **Public Health:** Engineered modules for the Punjab AIDS Control Programme focused on secure data entry and reporting.

PHP Developer | Astute Solutions, Lahore

Jun 2014 – Sep 2017

- ▶ **E-commerce:** Developed the cart, checkout and inventory management system for Al Ammari (Saudi Arabia).
- ▶ **API Integration:** Integrated real-time flight APIs for Nesma Airlines and designed the database structure for the Key car rental platform.
- ▶ **WordPress & Symfony:** Built and customised WordPress plugins for Marketing for Gyms and developed a Symfony-based reporting system for a corporate client.

Frontend & Backend Intern | Zam Software Solution, Islamabad

Mar 2014 – Jun 2014

- ▶ Contributed to frontend design and custom PHP development for USA-based logistics websites.

EDUCATION

BS Computer Science | Punjab University College of Information Technology, Lahore

2012

NOTABLE CLIENTS

Mercedes-Benz (internal portal, NDA) • Belgian e-commerce clients via B-Inside API (Belgium) • PCB (Pakistan) • Vertriebssoftware24 – Cyber-Fuchs, RiskCircle, SecuCircle (Germany) • Canai Digital (Germany) • VodafoneWest / Livasoftware (Germany) • Nesma Airlines (KSA) • Al Ammari (KSA) • Marketing for Gyms (USA) • Punjab AIDS Control Programme (Pakistan)

PORTFOLIO - SELECTED PROJECTS

Project	Description	Link	Tech
Mercedes-Benz Portal	Internal WordPress portal with custom login, Dockerised (NDA)	Private - NDA	WordPress, Docker, PHP, MySQL
B-Inside E-commerce Apps	Client e-commerce apps integrated with the B-Inside API (Belgium)	debaenst-app.be hetfruihuis-app.be mce-ups.be oscarfreshfood-app.be vanderhaegenpotatoes-app.be vlaemynck-app.be	Laravel, Vue.js, API Integration
PCB	PHP version upgrade and migration to a new server	pcb.com.pk	PHP, Server Migration
Cyber-Fuchs	Cyber-security awareness platform for businesses, owned by Vertriebssoftware24 (Germany): WordPress landing page + customer portal for webinars, certificates, guidelines and learning material; portal redesigned in CodeIgniter 4	cyber-fuchs.de	WordPress, CodeIgniter 3 → 4
Cyber-Fuchs Privat	Cyber-security awareness for private users, owned by Vertriebssoftware24 (Germany): WordPress landing page + learning portal with webinars and certificates	cyber-fuchs-privat.de	WordPress, CodeIgniter 3
RiskCircle	WordPress landing page + Laravel web app, owned by Vertriebssoftware24 (Germany)	riskcircle.de	WordPress, Laravel (latest)
SecuCircle	WordPress landing page + Laravel web app, owned by Vertriebssoftware24 (Germany)	secucircle.de	WordPress, Laravel (latest)
Vertriebssoftware24 Websites	Company and product websites for Vertriebssoftware24 (Germany)	vertriebssoftware24.de cyberscanner.de ransomware-reaction.de vip-monitoring.com unterweisungs-akademie.de north-sales.de nikolausstapels.de stapels.consulting	WordPress, HTML
XpertBooking	Event management & booking system	xpertbooking.com	CodeIgniter 3
Cyberschadenssumme	Cybersecurity awareness website (Germany)	cyberschadenssumme.de	CodeIgniter 3, REST APIs
Livasoft - VodafoneWest	Employee management system	livasoft.de	CodeIgniter 3
Al Ammari	E-commerce cart, checkout & inventory (KSA)	alammari.sa	CodeIgniter 3
Nesma Airlines	Flight details API integration	nesmaairlines.com	PHP, REST/SOAP APIs
Key Car Rental	Database architecture for car rental site (KSA)	key.sa	MySQL, Laravel
Marketing for Gyms	Custom WordPress plugin development (USA)	marketingforgyms.com	WordPress, PHP