Garion Herman
Senior Web Developer

Phone
022 433 3260

Email
business@garion.geek.nz

Website
garion.geek.nz

Hey there! I'm Garion, a senior web developer with a passion for designing and developing accessible, user-centric web interfaces powered by thoughtful, maintainable APIs. I've spent the past decade exploring different roles and technologies, and have developed a particular passion for product development, with a focus on UX and front-end development.

I'm a Core Committer on the Silverstripe CMS project, and have broad experience implementing and maintaining both ends of APIs in PHP and Javascript. I am also studying part-time towards an undergraduate degree in Design Innovation at Victoria University of Wellington.

Key strengths and experience

- Modern front-end development using React and Vue
- PHP, with particular experience in Laravel & Silverstripe CMS
- CI/CD and basic infrastructure (AWS / Azure)
- Agile development processes (Scrum / Kanban)
- Product design / development
- Mentoring

Previous roles

Support Developer – Netvalue Ltd.
2013-2015

This was my first role in the industry, and I learned a lot - working with both a proprietary internal CMS and dipping into Wordpress & Silverstripe CMS. My primary function was to manage the support desk, handling communication and development of change requests for existing clients.

Various roles – Silverstripe Ltd.
2015-2021

I performed a range of roles at Silverstripe over my 6 year tenure:

Support Developer (2015–2016)

In my first role at Silverstripe, I worked in a large team to serve clients with ongoing support for their sites, and manage hosting infrastructure. Some of my key responsibilities were:

- Provisioning new infrastructure in AWS
- Developing minor enhancements and bug fixes for Silverstripe CMS-based projects
- Communicating with clients
- Performing server maintenance

Bespoke Developer (2016–2018)

I shifted into a bespoke development role in late 2016, where I worked on multiple projects, including:

- **Whitireia:** A Silverstripe CMS 3 site, with a bespoke enrolment system that comprised of a complex Vue-based form flow, XML validation and generation, and FTP integration with the client's backend systems.
- **Westpac One:** I was seconded into to the Westpac web team to work on the front-end of their online banking platform, giving me experience with both Backbone and React as they were in the process of migrating.
- **Tourism NZ (newzealand.com):** This project was a migration from a proprietary internal CMS to Silverstripe CMS 4, with in-depth use of Elemental, Fluent, Queued Jobs and Static Publishing. I was brought in partway through the development of the site to help push it across the line. One of my key contributions was a static cache management UI that I designed and produced a custom CMS UI for using React.

Senior Open Source Developer (2018-2021)

This role was focussed on maintaining and enhancing the Silverstripe CMS codebase, along with a massive catalogue of supported modules. In addition to PHP / React development, I performed many extra roles including mentorship, release management, and product ownership. A key project I worked on during my time in this team was the MFA module suite.

Senior Front-end Developer – AKQA Ltd.
2021-2022

At AKQA I was primarily involved in the development of an ongoing product for a key client. During my tenure I oversaw and led a complete rewrite of the React-based front-end component library and application that significantly improved development practices and patterns. I also gained experience with APIM and mTLS through working on an integration project.

Prior to my departure, I worked on a high-pressure project to deliver a website for a new government agency with a key focus on accessibility. Due to the time constraints, my role was primarily to lead and support the other developers working on the project, and I was also responsible for architectural decisions throughout development.

Senior Developer (Contract) – Somar Digital Ltd.
2022-2023 (6 months)

Somar brought me onboard to help deliver a range of tightly-timed projects with a variety of technologies, primarily centred on Silverstripe CMS. I also helped to upskill and mentor other developers on modern practices for both front- and back-end development.

Senior Developer (Contract) – AKQA Ltd.
2023 (4 months)

Most recently, I returned to AKQA to backfill a key member of my original team whilst they were on a sabbatical. During this time I helped deliver a major piece of work migrating users from the legacy version of the product to the modern version.