

WAYNE THORLEY

Full Stack Developer

wayne@waynethorley.co.uk 07912889062

Professional Summary

Full stack software engineer with over 14 years experience designing and building performant web applications, SaaS products and customer-facing platforms using PHP, Laravel and React.

I enjoy solving problems, improving systems and turning ambitious ideas into products that people find a joy to use. Whether I'm reducing technical debt, designing new features or working closely with stakeholders to shape a product, my objective is always to build software that's reliable, maintainable and commercially valuable.

Throughout my career I've worked as part of small, collaborative teams where everyone is encouraged to contribute ideas and challenge assumptions. I enjoy sharing knowledge, learning from others and taking ownership of my work from the first conversation through to deployment and continual improvement.

Experience

Founding Full Stack Engineer
Huddle Up, Jan 2024 – Present

As part of the founding team, I helped shape both the product and the engineering approach from day one. Working closely with stakeholders, I translated complex operational challenges into software that improved collaboration between organisations, their members and their customers.

Although involved in product strategy and technical direction, my focus has remained hands-on development-building maintainable features, improving architecture and helping create a product that delivers genuine value for its users.

Core Tech Stack
Laravel, React, React Native, TypeScript, Tailwind

Key Achievements

- Built a modular collaboration platform supporting complex permissions, messaging, scheduling, document sharing and AI-assisted workflows across web and mobile.
- Worked closely with stakeholders to balance technical decisions with commercial priorities, ensuring features delivered measurable value rather than unnecessary complexity.
- Helped establish engineering practices that prioritised maintainability, scalability and long-term product quality from the earliest stages of development.

Senior Software Engineer
Trust Box, Sep 2022 – Jan 2024

Joined an SaaS business to help evolve a growing suite of products serving both internal teams and external customers. Alongside delivering new functionality, I focused on improving platform reliability, reducing technical debt and making the development process more efficient for the wider team.

I worked closely with developers and stakeholders to turn business requirements into practical technical solutions while encouraging better engineering practices across the team.

Core Tech Stack
Laravel, React

Key Achievements

- Modernised core areas of the platform, improving reliability, reducing infrastructure costs and simplifying future development.
- Introduced automated testing and CI/CD pipelines, giving the team greater confidence to release quickly with fewer regressions.
- Mentored junior developers, encouraged collaborative problem-solving and helped improve engineering standards across the team.

Tooling

Languages
PHP • TypeScript • SQL

Frameworks
Laravel • React • React Native • Tailwind

Databases
MySQL • Redis

Engineering
REST APIs • CI/CD • Git • Docker • Linux • Bash

Cloud & Infra
AWS • Nginx • CloudFront • S3 • Terraform

Skills

Passed 14 LinkedIn Skills Assessments. Notable Scores:

PHP	Top 5%
MySQL	Top 5%
HTML	Top 5%
JavaScript	Top 5%
React.js	Top 10%
Node.js	Top 15%

Education

Open University
2017
Fundamentals of Digital Marketing

Newcastle College
2013 – 2014
Web & Database Technologies HNC
Grade: Distinction

Staffordshire University
2009 – 2012
BA Social Work
Grade: First Class Honours

Newcastle College
2005 - 2008
A Psychology
A Sociology
A Welfare Studies

AS Psychology
AS Sociology
AS Computer Science
AS Business Studies

Digital Manager
Goodwin Group, Jan 2019 – Jan 2020

Led the delivery of digital projects across multiple businesses, identifying opportunities where technology could remove manual processes, improve visibility and make day-to-day operations more efficient.

Alongside hands-on development, I built and supported a multidisciplinary team while working closely with senior leadership to prioritise projects that delivered measurable business value.

Key Achievements

- Built and led a cross-functional digital team responsible for delivering software that directly supported the group's wider business strategy.
- Delivered practical digital solutions that streamlined internal processes and improved operational efficiency across multiple group businesses.

Freelance Web Developer
Self Employed, Aug 2012 – Sep 2022

Worked with founders, agencies and growing businesses to design, build and launch bespoke web applications across a wide range of industries.

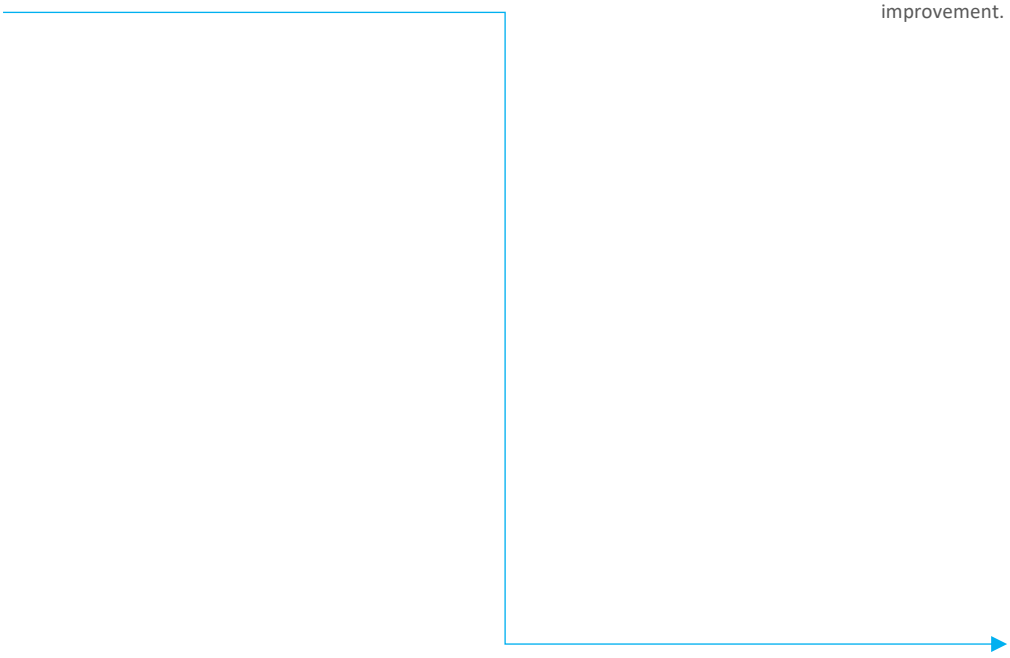
Most projects began as little more than an idea, requiring me to help shape requirements, challenge assumptions and deliver software that balanced speed of delivery with long-term maintainability. As the sole developer on many projects, I took ownership of the complete product lifecycle-from planning and UI design through to architecture, deployment and ongoing support.

The variety of projects gave me experience building SaaS products, e-commerce platforms, subscription services, internal business systems, social platforms and high-traffic customer applications, each with different technical and commercial challenges.

Key Achievements

- Successfully delivered dozens of production platforms, often as the sole developer, helping businesses launch products, automate processes and scale confidently.
- Built scalable applications handling payments, subscriptions, third-party integrations and high-volume customer workflows.
- Established long-term relationships with clients by focusing on pragmatic solutions, clear communication and software that remained maintainable long after launch.

Case Studies Overleaf



How I work

I enjoy working in teams where ideas are shared openly, feedback is welcomed and everyone takes pride in building great software together.

Some principles that have stayed consistent throughout my career:

I care about writing clean, maintainable code that's easy for others to understand.

I enjoy improving existing systems just as much as building new ones.

I believe technical decisions should balance engineering quality with genuine business value.

I welcome constructive feedback and enjoy sharing knowledge with other developers.

I'm naturally curious about new technologies but prefer adopting them when they solve real problems rather than because they're fashionable.

I take ownership of my work from initial planning through to deployment, monitoring and continual improvement.

CONTRACT CASE STUDIES

AiRTRAIN

Live Streaming Fitness Platform

The Challenge

A fitness start-up wanted to create a platform where instructors could build subscription-based businesses through live and on-demand video. The challenge wasn't simply streaming video – it was creating an ecosystem where instructors could onboard customers, monetise their content, build communities and manage their businesses from one place.

My Role

I worked as the sole developer, taking ownership of the project from the earliest planning discussions through to production deployment. That included product planning, UI/UX design, backend architecture, infrastructure, third-party integrations and ongoing support.

Technical Highlights

The platform supported both browser-based and OBS-powered live streaming using Node and Nginx RTMP, alongside a scalable video processing pipeline that automatically encoded uploaded content into adaptive HLS streams at multiple resolutions using FFMPEG.

A social layer included activity feeds, direct messaging, comments, likes and real-time notifications powered by Redis, Laravel Echo and Socket.io.

Instructor onboarding integrated seamlessly with Stripe Connect, including KYC verification, allowing creators to configure their own subscription plans while the platform automatically handled commission payments.

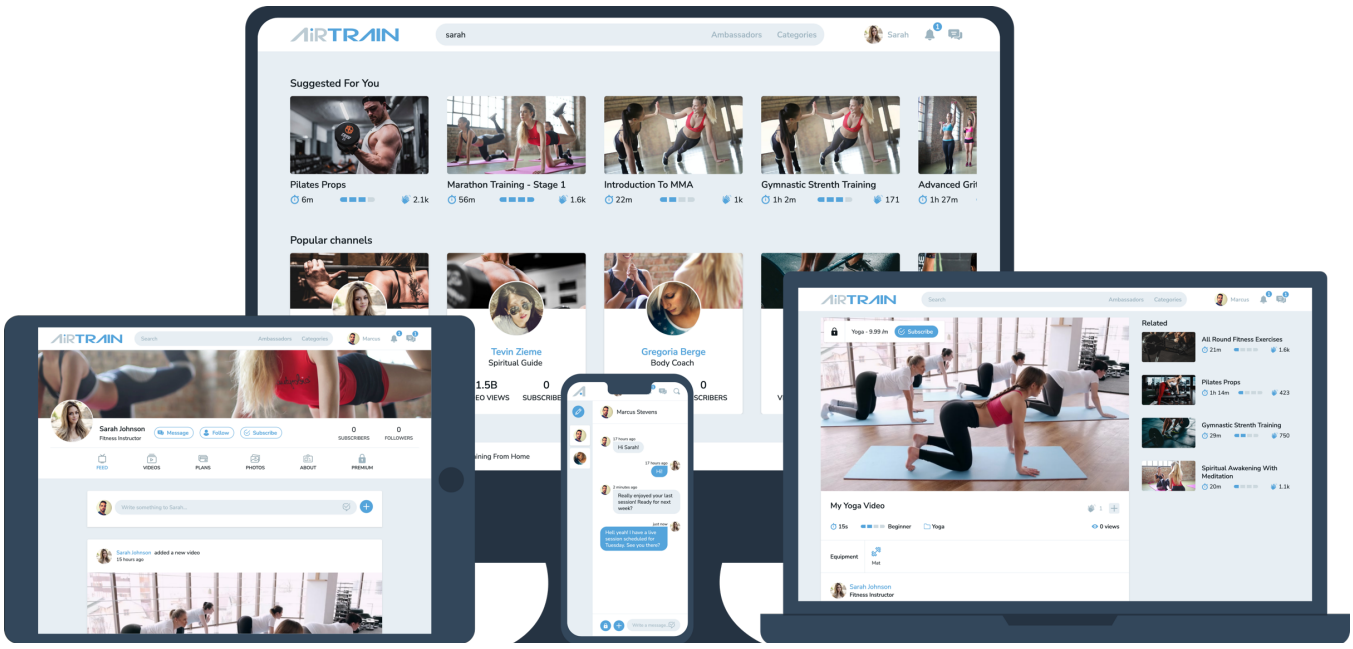
Media was stored securely in AWS S3 and delivered via CloudFront using signed URLs to protect premium content.

Technology

Laravel • React • React Native • Tailwind • Node.js • Redis • Socket.io • Nginx RTMP • FFMPEG • AWS S3 • CloudFront • Stripe Connect • Git

Delivery

4 months



Web3 Content Subscription Platform

The Challenge

The goal was to build a blockchain-native creator platform where content creators could monetise exclusive content through one-off purchases and subscriptions using cryptocurrency, while keeping the user experience as familiar as traditional social platforms.

My Role

As the sole developer, I designed and built the complete application, covering frontend, backend, blockchain integration, infrastructure, smart contracts and deployment.

Technical Highlights

The platform combined familiar social networking features—including feeds, messaging, comments, polls and notifications—with decentralised payment infrastructure.

I designed and deployed Solidity smart contracts supporting subscriptions and one-time purchases across multiple ERC-20 tokens including ETH, USDC, USDT, DAI, BNB and MATIC.

Real-time communication was powered by Redis and Socket.io, while premium media was securely stored in AWS S3 and distributed through CloudFront using signed URLs to prevent unauthorised access.

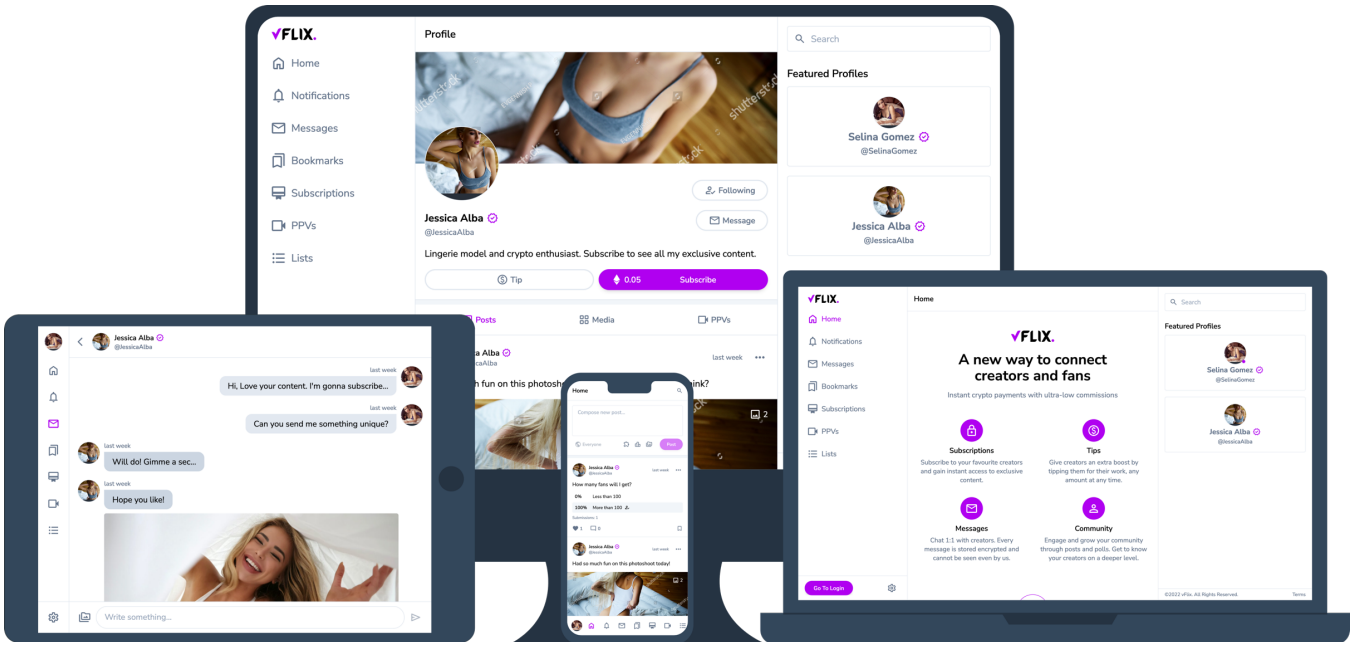
A key focus throughout the project was hiding the complexity of blockchain technology behind an intuitive interface, allowing users unfamiliar with Web3 to navigate the platform naturally.

Technology

Laravel • React • Tailwind • Solidity • HardHat • Ethers.js • Redis • AWS • CloudFront • Git

Delivery

3 months



International Parcel Delivery Platform

The Challenge

A logistics business needed a platform that allowed customers to compare shipping prices, book deliveries and manage orders through a single, straightforward interface, despite relying on multiple courier services with different APIs and pricing models.

My Role

I was responsible for the complete technical delivery of the platform, from product design and database architecture through to frontend development, backend services and third-party integrations.

Technical Highlights

I developed a quoting engine capable of integrating with eight different courier providers, normalising their responses into a consistent pricing model and enabling deliveries to more than 220 countries.

The platform included a custom Google Places-powered address search, integrated Stripe and PayPal payments, scalable transactional email delivery via Mailgun and a customer dashboard for managing shipments.

Alongside the customer-facing application, I built an internal CMS allowing administrators to manage content and operational aspects of the platform without developer involvement.

Technology

Laravel • JavaScript • Tailwind • Google Places API • Stripe • PayPal • Mailgun

Delivery

3 months

