



DARWIN OTONIEL MATEOS SÁNCHEZ

Senior Software Engineer • WordPress & PHP Specialist • AI-Augmented Developer

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PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

Results-driven Senior Software Engineer with 18+ years of expertise delivering high-performance, scalable web applications across Healthcare, Tourism, Real Estate, Non-profit, Government, and e-Commerce industries. Deep specialization in WordPress (custom themes, plugins, ACF Blocks, Gutenberg, REST API), PHP OOP, and modern JavaScript (ES6+, React). Actively integrates AI-powered tooling into daily engineering workflows to accelerate development, improve code quality, and reduce technical debt.

Experienced collaborating with teams using Agile/Scrum methodologies with CI/CD pipelines. Experienced with enterprise-grade platforms including WP VIP, WP Engine, Cloudways, and Indeed's internal engineering ecosystem.

I manage a heavy workload involving multiple clients, handling both routine maintenance and custom development with equal ease. I communicate clearly, follow a structured deployment process, and keep client websites secure, fast, and compliant.

AI TOOLS & AUGMENTED DEVELOPMENT

Proactively adopts AI-assisted engineering practices to boost productivity and code quality across the full development lifecycle:

- **GitHub Copilot** — accelerates boilerplate generation, inline autocomplete for PHP/JS, and test scaffolding within VS Code; reduces repetitive coding by ~30–40% on routine tasks.
- **ChatGPT & Claude** (Anthropic) — used daily for architectural decision-making, code review assistance, writing technical documentation, debugging complex plugin conflicts, and drafting PR descriptions.
- **AI-driven debugging** — leverages LLM analysis to trace PHP 8.x compatibility errors, WordPress hook conflicts, and fatal autoload issues in production environments (e.g., WP Engine).
- **Prompt engineering** — crafts structured prompts for code generation, reusable component design, and automated documentation aligned with PSR-12 and WPCS standards.
- **AI-assisted code review** — uses Claude/ChatGPT to cross-check security, performance, and WP VIP compliance before PRs are submitted, complementing human review.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages & Frameworks: PHP (OOP, PSR-12), JavaScript (ES6+), React, HTML5, CSS3, SASS, jQuery

WordPress: Custom Themes & Plugins, ACF / ACF Blocks, Gutenberg, REST API, WP-CLI, WP VIP

AI & Tooling: GitHub Copilot, ChatGPT, Claude (Anthropic), Cursor IDE, Prompt Engineering

DevOps & CI/CD: Docker, Lando, Git (GitHub / GitLab), GitHub Actions, npm, Grunt, Gulp, Composer

Testing: PHPUnit, Jest, XDebug, Code Sniffer (PHPCS), ESLint, Prettier

Platforms: WP Engine, WP VIP, Cloudways, Cloudflare

UI / Performance: Elementor Pro, WooCommerce, SEO, A11Y, Google Analytics, Figma, Zeplin

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior WordPress Engineer (Contractor) | 829 Studios Aug 2025 – Oct 2026

- **Website Maintenance & Security:** Runs routine and high-priority WordPress core and plugin updates across client sites. Hardens sites with SMTP setup, bot protection and reCAPTCHA, and handles DNS changes.
- **Front-End & Feature Development:** Builds and improves site features such as booking flows with third-party script embeds, service page buildouts, hero sections, logo strips, form styling and UTM tracking scripts for integrated platforms.
- **Bug Resolution & Troubleshooting:** Diagnoses and fixes issues like broken links and buttons, filter problems, scrolling and display bugs, image quality issues, scheduler bugs, embedded form failures and critical WordPress errors.
- **Site Migrations & Theme Builds:** Runs website migrations from development through production, builds custom themes and sets up local development environments.
- **Technical SEO & Performance:** Runs site crawls, fixes 404 errors, sets up redirects and noindex rules, advises on permalink structure, audits caching and performance, and makes content crawlable for AI search.
- **Compliance & Accessibility:** Carries out WCAG accessibility remediation and regulatory compliance reviews, such as LegitScript website scrubs for healthcare clients.
- **Scoping & Estimation:** Reviews new client requests and provides technical scoping and effort estimates for upcoming projects like membership systems, event features, landing pages and strategy audits.
- **Quality Assurance Workflow:** Takes each task from development through internal QA, client review and final QA in production, so every release is accurate and stable.

Senior Software Engineer (Contractor) | Indeed Jul 2024 – Jul 2025

- Contributed to high-traffic, consumer-facing web products using JavaScript (ES6+) within large-scale Agile/Scrum sprints.
- **Leveraged GitHub Copilot and ChatGPT daily to accelerate feature delivery, generate unit tests, and draft PR descriptions — reducing context-switching overhead.**
- **Used AI-assisted code review (Claude) to validate accessibility and performance standards before submission.**
- Managed containerized environments with Docker; automated build pipelines with npm and Grunt.
- Conducted thorough peer code reviews enforcing engineering quality standards across distributed English-speaking teams.
- Coordinated via Jira and GitLab; communicated daily in English with engineers, PMs, and QA across time zones.

Senior WordPress Developer (Contractor) | Tecla Jan 2024 – Jun 2024

- Developed high-performance, scalable WordPress solutions on WP VIP using PHP OOP, ACF Blocks, and custom template parts.
- **Adopted Cursor IDE for codebase-aware refactoring of complex ACF Block components and REST API integrations.**
- **Used Claude and ChatGPT to accelerate architectural decisions for custom WP API endpoints and third-party service integrations.**
- Integrated and customized Elementor Pro and WooCommerce solutions for high-traffic environments.
- Collaborated with designers, POs, and cross-functional teams; facilitated CI/CD deployments via Lando + GitLab pipelines.

Senior WordPress Developer (Contractor) | Parallel Staff Jul 2023 – Dec 2023

- Led Figma-to-WordPress implementation using Elementor Pro, PHP, and custom post types.
- **Employed GitHub Copilot for rapid scaffolding of custom queries, dynamic templates, and reusable template parts.**
- **Used AI tooling (ChatGPT) to research and document SEO optimization strategies and CRM workflow improvements.**
- Built modular, maintainable code structures prioritizing scalability and WP API best practices.

Senior WordPress Developer (Contractor) | CrateBind *Feb 2023 – Jun 2023*

- Spearheaded development of custom sections using Elementor Pro, Jet Engine, and Sugar CRM integrations.
- **Leveraged AI tooling (ChatGPT) for Mixpanel data analysis interpretation and user engagement optimization recommendations.**
- Collaborated with QA and DevOps; implemented custom post types and queries tailored to unique project requirements.

Senior WordPress Developer | Encora *Dec 2020 – Jan 2023*

- Debugged, maintained, and improved internal WordPress projects; kept pace with evolving PHP/JS ecosystem trends.
- **Introduced early AI-assisted debugging techniques using GPT tooling to trace complex hook conflicts and performance bottlenecks.**
- Implemented responsive design, SEO optimization, and cross-browser compatibility across multiple client sites.
- Version control in Git; deployed across Develop, Stage, QA, and Production environments.

Senior WordPress Developer (KSquare Group Client) | Boy Scouts of America *Apr 2018 – Apr 2020*

- Developed WordPress themes and plugins from scratch following BSA design guidelines, color schemas, and patterns.
- Help desk support for performance, maintenance, and content management; Jira Kanban + Scrum workflow.

Senior WordPress Developer (Agency) | KSquare Group *Apr 2018 – Nov 2020*

- Full-cycle WordPress development: research, responsive mockups, custom PHP/JS solutions, and coding documentation.
- Cross-browser testing and debugging; maintained Git version control practices across distributed teams.

Senior Software Specialist | HCL Technologies *Mar 2017 – Oct 2017*

- Developed React.js components for USAA, focusing on performance and responsive web standards.
- Code testing with Mocha; documentation in Markdown; Agile/GitLab workflow.

Frontend Developer | Justia *Feb 2015 – Jan 2017*

- Built and maintained web applications with a focus on CSS (Sass), accessibility, performance, and responsive design.
- Delivered modular, reusable CSS/HTML/JavaScript across open-source, internal, and client projects.

Lead Web Applications Developer | Fractalia *2008 – 2014*

- Managed a team of designers and developers across government, non-profit, health, and real estate web projects.
- Handled project estimation, technical architecture recommendations, Photoshop-to-HTML conversion, and client communication.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Administrative Computing — Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco, Villahermosa, Tabasco, MX (2007)

- Online Marketing Fundamentals — Google (2017)
- Redes Sociales para Negocios Seminary (2013)
- SEO Posicionamiento en Google Seminary (2013)
- HTML5 Course (2011) • Multimedia Development Course (2007)

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Native) • English (Professional — daily use in distributed teams)