LESTER CHAN

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EXPERIENCE

SEPTEMBER 2014 – MAY 2019

HEAD OF ENGINEERING, TECH IN ASIA

When I first joined Tech in Asia (TIA), I was tasked to form an engineering team in TIA. At its peak, our team consists of five web engineers, one iOS engineer, one Android engineer, and two data engineers.

Apart from managing the engineering team, I am in charge of all WordPress related projects. That includes creating custom plugins and scaling techinasia.com and its subsidiary websites.

We use React with Redux for frontend and WordPress with Laravel for the backend. We have continuous integration and continuous delivery (CI/CD) pipeline that deploys to our Kubernetes cluster hosted on Amazon Web Services (AWS).

2003 – CURRENT

WORDPRESS PLUGINS DEVELOPER, WORDPRESS.ORG

Developed a total of 21 WordPress plugins that have garnered more than 21 million downloads thus far.

My WordPress plugins have been featured in WordPress books in different languages selling in different countries, such as WordPress for Dummies.

Several Fortune 500 companies are using my WordPress plugins such as Coca-Cola, Xerox, Yahoo, Sony, Ford, etc.

Some of my popular WordPress plugins include WP-PageNavi, WP-Polls, WP-DBManager, WP-Sweep, WP-PostViews, and WP-PostRatings.

2003 – CURRENT

SIDE PROJECTS, SELF

YOURLS. YOURLS stands for Your Own URL Shortener and is written in PHP with MySQL as the database. I co-founded it with Richard Ozh as a side project and now I have handed it over to him.

Telegram Bot and Slack Bot are Node.js applications that are deployed using AWS API Gateway and AWS Lambda to allow 'infinite' scaling.

Rendeer is written in Node.js and it provides an alternative to the server-side rendering of JavaScript applications. By using Nginx's proxy pass, we can redirect bots by their user agents to a Rendeer cluster to serve them a rendered version of the website using Puppeteer.

GaMerZ File Explorer is written in PHP without the need for any databases. It allows you to browse and search for files and folder on the web just like Windows Explorer on the PC and Finder on the Mac.

FEBRUARY 2010 – AUGUST 2014

SENIOR WEB ENGINEER, MIG33/MIGME

Projects I have done are in PHP that involves various data sources. The projects need to support up to 100,000 concurrent users and 70 million registered users.

My biggest project with the company is "miniBlog", which is a Twitter clone. CodeIgniter is used as the PHP framework and Twitter Bootstrap, Backbone.js and Marionette.js are used as the presentation framework.

EDUCATION

DECEMBER 2009

BACHELOR OF COMPUTING (HONORS) IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS,
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Lead the team in our final year project in developing an Airlines Human Resource Management System using J2EE and MYSQL. Scored an A- for it.

JULY 2004

DIPLOMA IN MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY, SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

Represented Singapore Polytechnic in the finals for World Skills Singapore under the Web Design Trade in 2004.

ACTIVITIES

Being the co-founder of the Singapore WordPress User Group, the user group assisted in the organization of WordCamp 2011, 2016, and 2017.

From time to time, I will be asked to give talks related to WordPress. Some of my recent talks are, "Server & WordPress Optimization", "Tech in Asia's journey with Google AMP", "Scaling Tech in Asia", and "Moving Beyond WordPress At Tech in Asia".

I am a firm believer in open source projects and hence all my plugins are open-sourced and being hosted on GitHub github.com/lesterchan.

I am also the founder of lesterchan.net. It is my personal website which contains my personal blog and portfolio. Over the years, I blog mainly about technology and gadgets and that has gotten me to the rank of the top 10 most influential tech bloggers in Singapore.