

NIKUNJ HATKAR

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SUMMARY

Senior WordPress Developer with 9+ years of full-stack PHP expertise spanning core PHP, CodeIgniter, and WordPress ecosystems. Specialized in plugin architecture, REST API integration, multisite management, and e-commerce solutions. Proven track record leading teams, mentoring developers, and delivering complex projects for international clients. Strong expertise in WordPress optimization, Gutenberg block development, React, database optimization, and DevOps workflows (GitLab CI/CD, Jenkins, AWS). Active contributor to WordPress open-source community as Core Test Team Representative and former Test Lead for WordPress 7.1 release.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Updraft WP Software Limited | United Kingdom (Remote) **February 2024 - August 2026**

- Work across four WordPress.org plugins - WPGetAPI, Internal Link Juicer, UpdraftPlus, and Two Factor Authentication.
- Built the Simple Migration feature for UpdraftPlus, plus some related partner integration work.
- Added EDD (Easy Digital Downloads) login management to Two Factor Authentication.
- Redesigned WPGetAPI plugin UI with Gutenberg blocks and architected zero-data-loss migration system for seamless user upgrades.
- Provided technical support via forum and FreeScout with consistently high customer ratings; resolved support issues efficiently and professionally.
- Developed custom paid code solutions for enterprise WPGetAPI clients; maintained comprehensive technical documentation at wpgetapi.com.
- Ensured all plugins met WordPress.org Plugin Directory guidelines using Plugin Check (PCP); managed GitLab CI/CD workflows and code review processes.
- Managed plugin releases and compatibility across WordPress versions; migrated custom UX data without user data loss during major UI overhauls.

Crest Infosystems Pvt. Ltd. (Sr.Software Engineer) | Surat, Gujarat **January 2022 – February 2024**

- Led WordPress projects for international clients, with particular focus on Australia-based agencies; managed requirements, proposals, effort estimation, and stakeholder communication.
- Engineered multisite WordPress platforms for Australia-based clients; created and customized plugins to meet complex business requirements and multisite-specific functionality.
- Designed and built advanced POS (Point-of-Sales) system in PHP for Firearms industry; created REST API modules to sync POS products, orders, and users with multiple e-commerce platforms.
- Architected custom WordPress plugins to integrate POS software with e-commerce platforms including WooCommerce and BigCommerce.
- Built client-facing websites showcasing POS product catalog with custom design and functionality.
- Led API sync-based projects with AWS infrastructure; managed code using JIRA, Git, and Jenkins CI/CD pipelines for automated deployments.
- Participated in daily client calls for project updates and issue resolution; ensured reliable production systems serving business operations.
- Conducted technical interviews for WordPress developer candidates; collaborated with multiple team leads on solution architecture and project estimation.

- Led WordPress development team; mentored junior developers into mid-level roles; established development workflows, code review standards, and QA processes.
- Transitioned from CodeIgniter to WordPress ecosystem; spearheaded WordPress knowledge transfer and training across team to build specialized expertise.
- Managed Australia-based agency account (<http://burningfruit.com/>); delivered multiple high-traffic WordPress projects across diverse industries.
- Built complex WordPress projects across diverse use cases: CMS platforms, e-commerce stores, BuddyBoss community networks, EDD digital product platforms, and page builder-based sites.
- Worked with multiple hosting providers including Digital Ocean, WPEngine, Flywheel, and Bluehost; optimized site performance and managed server configurations.
- Implemented performance optimizations: caching strategies, image optimization, and database query tuning; handled PCI compliance and security hardening for e-commerce sites.
- Troubleshooted compatibility issues across page builders including Elementor Pro, WPBakery, Beaver Builder, Oxygen, and Divi.
- Provided project quotes and technical estimations; contributed to business development through client consultation and proposal creation.

Adbookee Media Solutions | Surat, Gujarat**April 2017 – November 2017**

- First professional development role—specialized in core PHP and CodeIgniter framework projects.
- Built custom admin panel in core PHP with dynamic data input and frontend display functionality; handled custom business logic and data processing.
- Developed multi-panel restaurant coupon platform in CodeIgniter with admin panel, seller panel, and customer frontend; implemented role-based access control and coupon management workflows.
- Collaborated with frontend developers on API integration; tested and QA'd applications before production deployment.

SKILLS

Languages & Frameworks: PHP, JavaScript, HTML5, CSS3, jQuery, CodeIgniter, Angular**WordPress Expertise:** Custom Themes & Plugins, WordPress Multisite, REST API, Gutenberg Block Development, WooCommerce, BuddyBoss, EDD, Elementor Pro, WPBakery, Beaver Builder, Oxygen Builder**E-commerce:** WooCommerce, BigCommerce, Custom POS Integration, REST API, Payment Gateways (Stripe, PayPal, Razorpay)**APIs & Integration:** Custom APIs, Payment Gateways, Third-Party API Services**Tools & Technologies:** Git, GitLab, PHPCS, Plugin Check (PCP), Performance Optimization**Database:** MySQL**WORDPRESS COMMUNITY & OPEN-SOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS**

- Test Lead for the WordPress 7.1 release - organized testing schedules and pushed for contributor participation ahead of launch.
- Core Test Team Representative, 2025-26.
- Recognized as a noteworthy contributor to WordPress 6.8.
- Help organize WordPress wordcamp in Surat.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Computer Application (BCA) | 2015

Vivekanand College of Management & Computer Studies
VNSGU, Gujarat | 65.23%

Higher Secondary Certificate (H.S.C.) | 2012

G.S.E.B, Gujarat | 64.16%

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- **Core PHP & CodeIgniter Development** | Tops Technology (4 months)
- **Angular Framework** | Tops Technology (4 months)

PERSONAL INFORMATION