

# SZABOLCS SAJBEN

Full-Stack Web Developer | Ruby on Rails & Security-Focused

Cardiff, UK | szabolcs.sajben@gmail.com | +44 7427 872 539  
GitHub: github.com/szabolcssajben | LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/szabolcs-sajben-a30a54102

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Full-stack engineer with ~10 years of commercial experience delivering e-commerce, media, and SaaS platforms for UK and international clients. Proven track record of modernizing legacy systems (Laravel 9 → 12), cutting page-load times by up to 40%, and leading small development teams (2–4 engineers). Additional expertise in **Ruby on Rails** and **web application security** (Wordfence scanning, vulnerability reporting, and proactive monitoring). Comfortable across Laravel/WordPress backends and modern JavaScript frontends (React/Next.js/Vue.js) with a strong DevOps mindset. Ready to bring hands-on execution, pragmatic leadership, and security-conscious development to a Japan-based engineering team.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Languages & Frameworks: | PHP 8, Laravel, Symfony, <b>Ruby on Rails</b> , JavaScript, TypeScript, React, Next.js, Vue.js, Node.js                                               |
| Web / CMS:              | WordPress (Trellis, Bedrock, Sage), ACF, Headless CMS, Payload CMS                                                                                    |
| Frontend:               | Tailwind CSS, Sass/SCSS, Responsive UI, Accessibility (WCAG), Component libraries                                                                     |
| APIs & Integrations:    | REST APIs, JSON/YAML, FastSpring, HubSpot CRM, Optimizely, third-party vehicle data APIs                                                              |
| Data & Databases:       | MySQL, PostgreSQL, Query optimization, Caching (Redis), Migrations                                                                                    |
| DevOps & Cloud:         | Docker, CI/CD (GitHub Actions, GitLab CI), Linux, Nginx, DigitalOcean; basic AWS/EKS (personal projects)                                              |
| Security:               | <b>Wordfence</b> vulnerability scanning, <b>Aikido</b> security reporting & monitoring, proactive vulnerability management for WordPress environments |
| Testing & Quality:      | PHPUnit, Jest, Playwright, Code review, TDD, Performance tuning (Core Web Vitals)                                                                     |
| Tooling:                | Git, GitFlow, Jira, Confluence, Figma, Three.js (basic)                                                                                               |
| Soft Skills:            | Technical leadership, cross-functional collaboration, stakeholder communication, mentoring                                                            |

## VISA & RELOCATION READINESS (JAPAN)

**Eligibility:** Engineer / Specialist in Humanities / International Services visa route via 10 years professional experience (attained September 2025).  
**No degree route:** Fully qualifies with employment contracts, payslips, reference letters, and portfolio/code evidence.  
**Availability:** Open to sponsored relocation to Japan. Can begin remote onboarding prior to move if required. Available Q4 2025 / early 2026.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Core – Full-Stack Developer

Cardiff, UK | January 2025 – Present

- Operated and enhanced 12+ WordPress properties (Trellis/Bedrock/Sage); built 20+ custom ACF blocks with Tailwind/SCSS.
- Delivered Next.js features and components in a cross-functional squad (2 developers, 2 designers, 2 PMs).
- Modernized a Laravel classic-cars marketplace: Laravel 9 → 12 / Nova 3 → 4, integrated third-party vehicle API, reduced data-import time by ~30%.
- Took ownership of security operations:** Managed regular Wordfence scans and Aikido security reports across all properties, proactively identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities.
- Owned daily DevOps workflows: Dockerized environments, CI/CD pipelines, Nginx configuration, DigitalOcean infrastructure, backups, and monitoring.
- Collaborated closely with designers and stakeholders to deliver client requirements on time and to high quality standards.

### Box UK – PHP Developer

Cardiff, UK | January 2022 – January 2025

- Upgraded DesignSpark from PHP 7.4/Symfony 2.4 → PHP 8/Symfony 5.4; refactored REST services for ~25% throughput and stability gains.
- Built a YAML-driven mega-menu CMS tool; integrated FastSpring payments and HubSpot CRM; expanded Optimizely A/B testing capabilities.

- Contributed TypeScript/SASS frontend work, translating Figma designs into reusable UI components and page templates.
- Managed the REST application layer providing content to the main Symfony application.

## Freelance – Full-Stack Developer

Remote | September 2018 – December 2021

- Shipped multiple WooCommerce plugins: multi-vendor imports, VAT calculation, and automated invoicing systems.
- Enhanced i-bidder.com (Laravel e-commerce platform) and built viewplex.io (THREE.js 360° virtual tours with subscriptions) — acquired by a real estate company.
- Owned end-to-end client communication, production maintenance, and CI/CD pipelines for 10+ concurrent clients.

## Earlier Roles

**SourceCode Labs** (Web Developer, 2017) — Led migration of parent company site to WordPress and contributed to internal Laravel + Three.js mapping application.

**Quantina Intelligence Ltd** (Junior Software Developer, 2016–2017) — Redeveloped flagship Java software and delivered C#.NET utilities.

**Fresh Consulting Ltd** (Apprentice IT Engineer, 2015–2016) — Supported IT across five schools and performed server maintenance.

## SELECTED IMPACT

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- Reduced platform page-load times by up to **40%** through asset optimization strategy, caching layers, and SQL query tuning.
  - Cut long-running data imports by **~30%** via intelligent queueing, batch processing, and API back-pressure controls.
  - Delivered **12+ production sites** and **20+ custom CMS blocks/components** actively used by non-technical content editors.
  - Strengthened security posture across multiple WordPress environments through consistent vulnerability scanning and proactive reporting.

## NOTABLE PROJECTS

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- **Markets Tracker** (Go + Next.js + PostgreSQL + Kubernetes/EKS) — Personal project demonstrating API design, job scheduling, charting, and E2E testing with Playwright.
  - **Portfolio & Components** (Next.js + Tailwind) — Interactive portfolio showcasing dark/light mode, animations, and performance-focused UI.
  - **Fan Translation Platform** (Next.js + Tailwind + Next.js AI SDK) — Custom lightweight CMS for publishing LLM-translated chapters with OpenAI integration.

## EDUCATION & LANGUAGES

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**Education:** BTEC Level 3 in Games Development – Uxbridge College, London (2013–2015, Distinction)

### Languages:

- English: Fluent (C2, professional working proficiency)
- Japanese: Beginner (actively studying; hiragana & katakana complete; daily practice)
- Hungarian: Native

## NOTES FOR JAPAN-FOCUSED APPLICATIONS

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- **Visa Status:** Requires sponsorship. Fully eligible via 10-year professional experience route (Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services).
  - **Documentation:** Employment history, references, portfolio/GitHub access, and proof of work outcomes are ready for COE application.
  - **Relocation:** Available for relocation to Japan from Q4 2025. Open to remote onboarding / trial period prior to physical move.
  - **Japanese Level:** Currently beginner (pre-JLPT N5 reading). Committed to continued language learning and cultural integration.