Danny-Christian Festor

Full-stack web developer in Japan

Japan
danny@festor.info

Available from 1 Apr 2027, 3–5 days per week English (Fluent (TOEIC 980/990)) · German (Native) · Japanese (Business level (JLPT N2))

Profile

Freelance full-stack web developer in Japan, working under the trade name Brücke since July 2020. Builds web systems from the user interface to the backend and database, mainly with PHP and Laravel, TypeScript and Go. Takes features autonomously from request through planning and implementation to delivery. Works in German, English and Japanese.

Worked as lead developer at Creative Innovation from 2021 to 2024, mostly on Laravel, Livewire, Alpine.js and Tailwind CSS systems: web shops, CMSs, a membership system for a medical society and the API of a matching app. Worked as backend lead at Qualita from 2024 to 2025, on the TypeScript and GraphQL backend of an investment and online marketplace platform on serverless AWS and on a Next.js shop. Since June 2025 develops the Go backend of Lazuli's product data platform on PostgreSQL and Google Cloud, with Google Vertex AI and AI coding tools.

Earlier work was in machine learning and computer vision: speech and face recognition research at Honda Research Institute Japan as an engineer of Yume Technology (2017 to 2018), and defect detection on semiconductor wafers at Sony Semiconductor Manufacturing (2018 to 2020).

Strengths

- Full-stack web development with Laravel, Livewire, Alpine.js and Tailwind CSS, including admin areas with FilamentPHP
- Backend development in PHP, TypeScript and Go, with REST and GraphQL APIs and PostgreSQL or SQL databases
- Frontend development with Vue.js, Next.js and Alpine.js, implemented from supplied designs
- Cloud and serverless systems on AWS (EC2, RDS, S3, Lambda) and Google Cloud
- AI-based features with Google Vertex AI, and Claude Code and Cursor as AI coding tools
- Flutter and Dart: extended and refactored an inherited survey app for web and mobile
- Machine learning and computer vision with Python and TensorFlow, including algorithm development and analysis of results
- Multilingual websites in German, English and Japanese

Selected projects

Product data platform (PDP)

since Jun 2025

Backend engineer (Backend) · Client Lazuli · B2B SaaS · team of 12

Backend development of Lazuli's product data platform (PDP), a B2B SaaS product for managing and structuring product data with the help of AI. Works autonomously from feature request to delivery. The first area is a file and asset management service: users upload images, videos and other files, which are preprocessed automatically and classified, tagged and searched with neural networks and Google Vertex AI (Gemini-based). The backend work covers folders, favourites, user tables, asset versioning with snapshots and restoration, imports from cloud storage services and fixes to file conversion. The second area is AI-based product data management: users upload CSV, XLSX, PDF or image files that contain tables, and the platform extracts the data, estimates categories and exports category-annotated data for marketplaces such as Amazon and Rakuten. The work there covers the extraction endpoints, category estimation, table editing on PostgreSQL, syndication exports, a SQL query runner and audit logs. The backend is written in Go with PostgreSQL on Google Cloud, and Claude Code and Cursor are used as AI coding tools. Automated tests keep the operation stable.

- Delivered asset versioning for the file management service: update history, snapshots, copies in cloud storage and restoration
- Built extraction endpoints for tables in PDF and Excel files and the category estimation for the extracted product data
- Implemented table editing on a PostgreSQL row store and named tables for the PDP Pro offering

Go · REST · PostgreSQL · Google Cloud · Vertex AI · Claude Code · Cursor · BigQuery · Gemini · Jira · golangci-lint · Git

Children's toy recommendation shop

Feb 2025 – Jun 2025

Backend lead (Backend) · Client Qualita · End client カイクリエイツ · E-commerce, education · team of 8

Development of an online shop that recommends toys for children: users answered a questionnaire about their child's personality, age and skills, and the system suggested matching toys. The corporate and admin side let companies manage their own products and staff, and administrators approved products before they appeared in the shop. The work focused on the backend of both the admin and the user side, with frontend work where needed. The shop was built with TypeScript and Next.js server components, Prisma and SQL on PostgreSQL, and image storage on AWS S3. Work included corporate staff management with first-login password setup, product attributes such as size, a category master, a refactoring of error reporting, the introduction of MinIO, and code reviews of large pull requests.

- Built corporate staff management, including creating staff accounts and first-login password setup
- Added product attributes such as size and a category master for product registration
- Refactored the error reporting and introduced MinIO

JavaScript · TypeScript · PostgreSQL · Next.js · React · Prisma · REST · AWS · Git

Investment and online marketplace platform

May 2024 – May 2025

Backend lead (Backend) · Client Qualita · E-commerce · team of 6

Backend development of an investment and online marketplace platform where users register items they hold as investments, buy and sell items on the marketplace and follow price changes, with prices checked on a schedule. The platform consisted of a user web application, an admin application and a public service website; the team had six members and the work focused on the backend. The backend was written in TypeScript on AWS with serverless infrastructure managed with SST, exposed a GraphQL API and stored data in PostgreSQL through a query builder and SQL. The work covered the marketplace, card payments with Pay.jp including webhook handling, contract and monthly report APIs, the database design and its performance, and bug fixing in the integration and general test phases. From late 2024, backend improvements and clean-up were proposed and carried out, and a database performance hotfix was shipped in May 2025.

- Designed the entity-relationship model and database migrations and kept migrations, seed data and diagrams current as the data model changed
- Built large parts of the marketplace GraphQL API: item listing and detail, offers, favourites, cart, discount eligibility and a show or hide switch for single items
- Researched and implemented card payments with Pay.jp end to end: customers, cards, charges, subscriptions, a serverless webhook handler and guards against concurrent purchases

JavaScript · TypeScript · Node.js · SST · PostgreSQL · GraphQL · AWS · Serverless · Pay.jp · Docker · Kysely · Pothos · Biome · Postman · dbdiagram.io · Backlog · Git

Vogaro CMS

Nov 2023 – Apr 2024

Lead developer (Full stack) · Client Creative Innovation · End client Vogaro · Automotive · team of 3

Full-stack development of a CMS for a website about automotive wheels, based on files of the Lacne CMS that were handed over for the project. Features were added to the admin area to match the client's needs, implemented from designs supplied in XD, and the backend that delivers the content registered in the admin to a front end built by another company was developed from scratch. Phase 1 covered the product-related CMS and phase 2 the news and fair management.

- Studied the Lacne CMS code base, fixed bugs and extended it to the client's needs
- Added the management of brands, wheels, wheel parts, optional parts, sizes and products to the admin in November and December 2023
- Developed the backend that delivers the admin content, pages and database data to the front end built by another company

PHP · jQuery · JavaScript · SQL · Docker · GitLab · AWS · MySQL · Git

Membership management system for a palliative medicine society

Mar 2022 – Apr 2024

Lead developer (Full stack) · Client Creative Innovation · End client 日本緩和医療学会 · Healthcare · team of 4

Development of the membership management system of a Japanese palliative medicine society. Members check their membership fees, take part in the general assembly and apply for letters of commission. Administrators register members and manage announcements, fees and meetings. The login and registration screens, part of the member screens and part of the admin area were developed.

- Developed the login and registration screens, part of the member screens and part of the admin area
- Restored the letter-of-commission function in August 2022
- Handled maintenance issues and feedback, a few new features and bug fixes in August and September 2022

PHP · Laravel · Livewire · Alpine.js · Tailwind CSS · SQL · Docker · GitLab · AWS · HTML · CSS · MySQL · Git

Career

since Jun 2025	**Backend engineer**	Lazuli	Freelance
May 2024 – Jun 2025	**Backend lead**	Qualita	Freelance · 2 projects
Feb 2021 – Apr 2024	**Lead developer**	Creative Innovation	Freelance · 17 projects

Jul 2020 – Jan 2021	**Freelance full-stack web developer**	Brücke	Own business · 3 projects
Oct 2018 – Apr 2020	**Data analyst and system engineer**	Sony Semiconductor Manufacturing	Employment
Feb 2017 – Sep 2018	**Engineer**	Yume Technology	Dispatch
Sep 2015 – Mar 2016	**IT support intern**	Mercedes-Benz R&D Japan	Internship
Oct 2009 – Aug 2010	**Translation and quality assurance**	Katalyst Labs	Employment

Skills

Programming language	PHP 3.8 y · SQL 3.3 y · CSS 2.7 y · HTML 2.7 y · JavaScript 2.5 y · TypeScript 2.2 y · Go 1.5 y
Framework	Laravel 3.8 y · Alpine.js 3.3 y · Livewire 3.3 y · Tailwind CSS 3.3 y · Vue.js 1.4 y · SST 1.1 y · Inertia.js 0.8 y · Next.js 0.4 y · Prisma 0.4 y · React 0.4 y
Library	jQuery 1.9 y · Kysely 1.1 y · Pothos 1.1 y
Database	MySQL 3.3 y · PostgreSQL 2.6 y
Cloud	AWS 4.4 y · BigQuery 1.5 y · Google Cloud 1.5 y
Platform	Node.js 2.3 y · Pay.jp 1.1 y
Tool	Git 10.2 y · Docker 4.3 y · GitLab 3.3 y · Jira 1.5 y · golangci-lint 1.5 y · Backlog 1.1 y · Biome 1.1 y · Postman 1.1 y · dbdiagram.io 1.1 y
AI tool	Claude Code 1.5 y · Cursor 1.5 y · Gemini 1.5 y · Vertex AI 1.5 y
Method	REST 1.8 y · GraphQL 1.1 y · Serverless 1.1 y

Education

BSc Electrical Engineering and Information Technology
Ruhr-Universität Bochum · Nov 2016

MA Japanese Linguistics
Ruhr-Universität Bochum · Oct 2012

BA Japanology and English Studies
Ruhr-Universität Bochum · Jul 2009

Abitur
Berufskolleg für Technik und Gestaltung · Jun 2004

Certificates and licences

TOEIC 980, 980/990
Jan 2020

JLPT N2
Japan Foundation · Jan 2012

Ordinary Car Driving Licence (Japan, Class 1)
Feb 2003