# ALEXANDER PALAISTRAS

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| EMAIL | alex@deuill.org |
| BLOG | deuill.org |
| GITHUB | github.com/deuill |
| EXPERTISE | Go, PHP, Python, C |
| | Kubernetes, Postgres |
| | Distributed Systems |
| | IAM, DNS, XMPP |

Software engineer and team lead with over twelve years' professional experience in designing and developing robust, distributed systems in **Go** and **PHP**, and an extensive history of open source contributions across multiple disciplines.

Worked with and lead teams in delivering readable, performant, and well-documented software with an eye for minimalism.

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## SENIOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER
06/2016– Current

Cloudflare – Web Performance & Security – London, UK     **Go, PHP, Rust, Postgres, Kubernetes**

Drove the modularization and modernization of a legacy, monolithic PHP code-base into Go microservices, moving to lead engineer for the then-nascent IAM team, and lastly to building security products under the WAF umbrella.

- Led the design and implementation of the next-generation **IAM** product, built in **Go**, and utilizing **Postgres** and **Kafka**, used internally by the company for both user and service authorization, serving millions of requests per day on the critical path while remaining flexible enough for ever-expanding product requirements.
- Re-architected the **DNS** validation pipeline for newly registered domains, from **PHP** and into **Go**, supporting the company through more than an order of magnitude of growth with minimal oversight.
- Designed and developed numerous other **Go** microservices, tied together by a bespoke framework, allowing for code reuse for both past and future code-bases. Standardized observability across services using said framework using **Prometheus** and **Grafana**, and led its adoption across teams, leading to improved velocity and resiliency.

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## LEAD PLATFORM ARCHITECT
04/2014– 06/2016

Hearst Magazines – Media & Publishing – London, UK     **Go, PHP, Python, Javascript, MariaDB**

Responsible for leading the Hearst UK platform team in helping build, maintain and migrate to a bespoke, microservice-oriented framework and CMS, in conjunction with disparate teams across the global business.

- Successfully lead a team of 6+ developers (backend/full-stack, remote & in-house) in delivering time-sensitive projects, including rebuilds of Digital Spy and Cosmopolitan UK, built on top of a bespoke **PHP**-based framework and CMS, and backed by **MariaDB** and **Redis**.
- Designed and built a **JIT image processing** pipeline in **Go** and **C**, using VIPS and backed by **S3**.
- Accelerated ad delivery by more than 150% across the Hearst UK portfolio by refactoring the bespoke, **Javascript-based** ad framework for asynchronous operation.
- Influenced and negotiated architecture solutions with key stakeholders; endorsed advancements to development process and standards company-wide.

## Full-stack Web Developer

05/2011– 02/2014

πNet Design – Creative Agency – Sparta, Greece

**Go, PHP, Redis, MariaDB**

Principal developer for both internal and client projects – built and maintained web applications, including a fully-featured administration backend for a mid-sized cruise company and modernized the company's infrastructure, framework and CMS.

- Led the development of a bespoke **PHP/Go** web framework and CMS, resulting in radical improvements to development and editorial workflows.
- Facilitated the delivery of projects by improving process at all levels; implemented CI and Git-backed code deployment, reproducible local development environments via **Vagrant**, initial project templates with H5BP and bespoke front-end components built around Bootstrap.
- Achieved an overall 60% increase in site performance by leveraging Nginx, full-page caching via **Varnish** as well as partial caching via **Redis**.
- Researched and implemented new technologies, leveraging deep platform knowledge across the entire tech stack.

## Technical Support Assistant

06/2007– 05/2011

Multirama S.A. – Information Technology Retail Chain – Sparta, Greece

Front-line technical and on-site support for B2B and individual clients. Responsible for a growing number of on-going projects, including server administration and full-site network installations.

- Supported, maintained and configured servers and networks organization-wide.
- Coordinated and organized repairs and installations, in-house and on-site, in alignment with customer demands, utilizing a bespoke framework for the unattended installation and configuration of operating systems and applications.
- Administered records of incoming and outgoing parts for ongoing projects.
- Built and maintained strong client relationships in support of business development.

## EDUCATION  TECHNICAL SCHOOL OF SPARTA

2002 – 2006

Sparta, Greece