TAREK NABIL

Full-Stack WordPress Developer | 15+ Years Production Experience

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Self-taught full-stack WordPress developer with 15+ years of production PHP/MySQL/WordPress experience, gained through direct client work years before any formal certification. Specialize in custom plugin architecture, WooCommerce/e-commerce systems, multilingual (WPML) implementations, and diagnosing complex legacy-code failures. Comfortable owning a project end-to-end — from server provisioning to production debugging — for long-term clients who return for years rather than one-off tasks.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages & Core
PHP (OOP), MySQL/SQL, JavaScript, jQuery, AJAX, HTML5/CSS3, XML/JSON, REST & SOAP web services; working fundamentals in C, C++, C#

WordPress Architecture & Plugin Development
Custom plugin architecture built from scratch, hooks & filters, custom post types/taxonomies/fields, shortcode APIs, WP_Query & post-ordering/scoring algorithms, WP-Cron scheduling engines, license-gated premium plugin systems, custom admin & settings panels, parent/child theme architecture & debugging

WooCommerce & E-Commerce
Variable/grouped/bundled products, custom checkout & cart logic, shipping & fee rules, subscriptions, waitlists, multi-currency & live pricing, role-based access control, catalog import pipelines (WP All Import), POS/inventory troubleshooting

Page Builders & Content Tools
Elementor & Elementor Pro, WPBakery, ACF (Advanced Custom Fields), custom loop templates, dashboard-style admin workflows built for non-technical clients

Multilingual & Arabic/RTL (WPML)
WPML configuration & migration, RTL layout implementation, Loco Translate, String Translation workflows, recovering incomplete third-party localization work

Site Migration, Upgrades & Recovery
Legacy HTML-to-WordPress & theme-to-theme migrations, core/version upgrade procedures, disaster-recovery protocols, database & hosting-platform migrations, zero-downtime domain cutovers

Integrations & APIs
PayPal, MPGS payment gateway, Armenian payment-gateway integrations, Google Maps, Facebook/Twitter/Google+ APIs, Google Images API, Twilio/SMS, Bitcoin RPC & Block.io (feasibility research)

Security & Maintenance
Malware identification & remediation, Sucuri, site hardening, vulnerability triage, recurring maintenance programs (50+ cycles across 8+ sites)

Infrastructure & Hosting
cPanel provisioning, DNS/domain cutover, SSL/HTTPS, server & platform migrations, remote production debugging (TeamViewer, SSH, GitHub)

Tools & Workflow
Git/GitHub (incl. SSH-key workflows), Asana, Trello, ClickUp, Formidable Forms, Contact Form 7, MailWizz

Languages Spoken
Arabic (native), English (professional working proficiency)

NOTABLE TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

- Designed a weighted post-scoring algorithm (popularity, favorites, recency, admin-tunable constants) with array-based caching to avoid repeated DB hits — validated stable at 2,500+ posts.
- Built and shipped two parallel plugin architectures (live-link vs. locally-cached images) to meet conflicting performance/stability constraints for the same client requirement.
- Recovered an incomplete WPML migration (broken language switching, missing translations, RTL issues) left by a prior developer and delivered a stable bilingual WooCommerce store.
- Root-caused a WordPress registration failure to a single stray whitespace character before an opening PHP tag — traced through theme/child-theme/CAPTCHA interaction rather than trial-and-error.
- Identified and removed live malware redirecting WooCommerce customers to malicious sites; built and delivered post-incident hardening across two related client sites.
- Evaluated plugin-ecosystem feasibility (membership, cryptocurrency wallet/RPC, event booking) for a crowdfunding platform before any custom development began, clarifying build-vs-configure decisions.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance WordPress Developer — Alienative.net (Serouj)

2019 – Present

- Daily technical partner across 100+ WordPress/WooCommerce sites for a multi-client agency, spanning NGOs, cultural institutions, e-commerce, and diaspora/community organizations.
- Built custom functionality with no off-the-shelf equivalent: loan calculators, liturgical/event calendars, donation-total reporting, store-locator systems, and access-controlled reporting dashboards.
- Repaired and extended third-party plugins and integrations: payment gateways (MPGS, Armenian gateways), sliders/galleries (Revolution Slider, Smart Slider, UniteGallery), donation and recurring-payment plugins, CAPTCHA and SMS/Twilio-related forms.
- Led WPML/Arabic RTL implementation and translation recovery across dozens of multilingual sites, including fixing broken language switching and untranslated fallback content.
- Handled malware removal, security hardening, and ongoing stability maintenance under live production conditions.
- Trusted with direct client handling and sensitive data entry when the agency is at capacity.

Freelance WordPress Developer — NeeviStudio (Mina)

2021 – Present

- Delivered 8+ full WordPress builds end-to-end, including two healthcare sites with HIPAA-adjacent intake forms, Rx-refill routing, and appointment scheduling.
- Owns recurring maintenance (50+ cycles across 5 years) across the client's site portfolio; manages 80+ Asana tasks and 130+ ClickUp tasks across concurrent projects.

Freelance Developer — Freelancer.com

2008 – Present

- 20+ completed projects (5/5 rating) specializing in WordPress plugin development built from scratch — custom scoring/ranking algorithms, automated content/image pipelines, license-gated premium plugins, and conditional-access logic.

- Delivered full-stack builds beyond WordPress: Laravel application deployment and customization, PHP/MySQL statistical and similarity-scoring web applications, and static HTML-to-WordPress migrations.
- Performed security and recovery work: malware removal, root-cause PHP/theme debugging (including a subtle whitespace-before-PHP-tag failure traced through parent/child theme interaction), and legacy-system rescue assessments.
- Delivered API-integrated solutions using PayPal, Google Maps, Facebook/Twitter/Google+, and Google Images APIs, plus early feasibility research into Bitcoin RPC/Block.io wallet integrations.
- Manages hosting and deployment: cPanel configuration, database provisioning, production troubleshooting, and remote debugging via TeamViewer and GitHub-based workflows.

SELF-DIRECTED TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Skills in this field were built through direct production work years before any formal credential — the certifications below supplemented an already-active freelance practice rather than preceding it.

- Communication Engineering, B.Sc. — Alexandria University (graduation project: prototype missile-control system via parallel-port hardware interfacing)
- University of Michigan (Coursera): Introduction to SQL; Building Web Applications in PHP — 2018
- HKUST (Coursera): HTML/CSS/JavaScript; Front-End UI Frameworks; AngularJS — 2016–2017
- HackerRank — Problem Solving, Level 3 badge (since 2016)

LEADERSHIP & OPERATIONS BACKGROUND

20 years, Egyptian Armed Forces (2006–2026, concluded July 2026). Progressive roles spanning hands-on technical maintenance, distributed-team command, an internal R&D software assignment, and high-pressure real-time operations. Included here as context for leadership, independent problem-solving, and performance under sustained pressure.

- **Artillery Systems & Maintenance (2006–2010, 2013–2017):** independent troubleshooting and repair of complex radar/artillery systems, frequently without technical manuals or direct support.
- **Company Commander, Air Defence Forces (2010–2013):** led 12–16 platoons across remote, geographically distributed locations — logistics, training design, solar-power system deployment, and continuous operational readiness.
- **R&D Software Assignment (2014–2016):** contributed to an internal military communications/coordination application — C/C++/C# fundamentals, TCP/IP socket programming, and OpenCV-based computer vision.
- **Battalion Commander, Air Defense SAM Battalion (2017–2018):** responsible for a unit defending Cairo's airspace as part of a 10-battalion coordinated command structure.
- **Air Defense Weapon Assignment Officer (2018–2026):** real-time threat assessment, resource allocation, and multi-team coordination under time-critical operational conditions.