Ernesto Flames

LEAD SOFTWARE ENGINEER · LARAVEL · FLUTTER · AI-ASSISTED ENGINEERING

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PROFILE

Lead Software Engineer with **14+ years** building and operating web and mobile products end to end. I own the full technology stack of a US consumer-lending platform — Laravel 12, MySQL, Vue, Flutter, AWS — and took its mobile app from zero to Google Play. Before fintech, seven years on high-traffic media platforms, where I hired and led the team behind the Miss Venezuela and Noticiero Venevisión systems. Equally at home in architecture, hands-on delivery and leadership; I run **AI-assisted engineering** as a practice — agents, guardrails and RAG — keeping a human on architecture and security.

EXPERIENCE

Lead Software Engineer — QL Group USA

Nov 2022 — Present

Quick Kash · Florida, United States · Remote

US consumer-lending business ($300–$1,000 loans, 21–84 day terms) with a 10-person team. I am the sole owner of its technology.

4,100+	$2.1M	36k+
REGISTERED CUSTOMERS	DISBURSED	PAYMENTS PROCESSED

- Own the platform end to end: loan origination, approval workflow, servicing, payments, documents, reporting and the public website.
- Replaced manual loan intake with an online origination flow; the active customer base grew roughly **25%** after launch.
- Led the **Flutter** app from zero to Play Store submission: REST API, Firebase push, in-app inbox, secure document upload, account deletion.
- Turned a Google Play rejection into a shipped product: re-scoped the app to loan servicing for existing customers and completed the financial-services compliance work.
- Define company-wide technology strategy — tooling, AI adoption, digital operations — and the architecture decisions behind it.
- Prototyped a guardrailed LLM + RAG assistant over our own loan data; validated, shelved on cost, documented for rollout.

Backend Developer — L'avenir SAS

Sep 2021 — Dec 2022

Colombia · Remote

- Contributed to **Umbrella**, the field-management system for enterprise clients including Claro and ETB, on Yii2 / MySQL / Redis.
- Built a bulk import/export module (Laravel + Vue.js) for large-volume customer data, replacing manual loading with validated, resumable batch processing.
- Designed IVR systems on Asterisk with PHP-AGI: **9 of every 10** inbound account inquiries resolve without an agent.
- Travelled to Bogotá to lead an on-site client launch; delivered on schedule and named Employee of the Month (March 2022).

Co-Founder & Lead Engineer — Grupo Tera

2014 — Sep 2021

Venezuela · Full-time from Nov 2018

- Co-founded a software agency and ran its technical side: pre-sales, solution design, architecture, delivery and support for clients in the US and Venezuela.
- Built **CIFAES** end to end in Yii2 — AES's corporate learning and certification platform, scoped for ~3,000 learners across an 8,000+ employee multinational in 14 countries.
- Delivered line-of-business systems for wholesale ordering, retail POS and inventory, and owned hiring, vendors and delivery commitments.

Full Stack Developer — Bandit, embedded with Carethy — Apr 2018 — Jan 2019

Barcelona, Spain · Remote

- Integrated global dropshipping providers through their APIs, adding **tens of thousands of SKUs** as Carethy became Spain's largest personal-care e-commerce site.
- Built a gamified employee-incentive platform in Laravel, plus per-client customization and transactional email templating.

Web Development Chief — Cisneros Group / Venevisión — Oct 2014 — Mar 2018

Caracas, Venezuela · Promoted from Semi Senior Web Developer after 3 months

- Led the internet unit of Venezuela's largest broadcaster (**up to 6 engineers**) and owned the build of its highest-traffic properties.
- Hired every engineer on the team: wrote the technical evaluations, ran the interviews end to end and handed the shortlist to HR.
- Rebuilt **Miss Venezuela** in Laravel on AWS (EC2, S3, MySQL, caching): in-house CMS, candidate and sponsor profiles, and a voting system that reconciled votes from the Twitter/X API. An external consultancy stress-tested the launch and found no degradation as virtual users scaled — at a fraction of the legacy ASP stack's infrastructure cost.
- Delivered the **Noticiero Venevisión** CMS: editorial workflow with authoring, review, approval and publication states, ACLs, live streaming, YouTube integration and reporting; migrated high-traffic channel sites from ASP to Laravel.

EARLIER

Semi Senior Web Developer — Kentron, Caracas — Jul — Sep 2014

Laravel applications for SENIAT, BANAVIH, INAVI and Universidad Simón Bolívar; introduced the Bootstrap patterns the team adopted.

Web Developer — Ministerio de Hábitat y Vivienda (INAVI) — Jul 2013 — Jul 2014

Ministry intranet and an employment-certificate system with QR and numeric verification validated through a public module; part of the Gran Misión Vivienda tender system.

Product Specialist, Level 3 Support — Corporación DELCOP — Feb 2012 — Jul 2013

Final escalation point for enterprise print infrastructure (Banco Exterior, Zurich, Diebold); built the PHP knowledge base that cut technicians' search time from hours to minutes.

SKILLS

LANGUAGES
PHP 8, Laravel 5–12, Yii2, JavaScript (ES6+), Vue.js, Flutter, Dart, SQL, HTML5, CSS3

DATA
MySQL, MariaDB, SQL Server, Oracle, PostgreSQL, Redis — query optimization, indexing, caching

CLOUD & DEVOPS
AWS (EC2, S3, RDS), Docker, Linux, Nginx, CI/CD (GitHub Actions), Git/GitFlow, PHPUnit

MOBILE
Flutter, Firebase Cloud Messaging, deep links, in-app inbox, document upload, Google Play compliance

AI & AUTOMATION
LLM integration (OpenAI, Anthropic, DeepSeek), RAG, guardrails, multi-agent workflows (OpenCode), MCP servers

LEADERSHIP
Teams up to 6 engineers, technical hiring and interview design, vendor selection, technology strategy, Agile/Scrum

PROJECTS

Churupos — Flutter and web currency converter for Venezuela; no accounts, no backend, no ads.

nada! — Focus timer shipped twice from one design system: Flutter Android app and web client.

EDUCATION

B.Sc. in Computer Engineering — Universidad Alejandro de Humboldt, Caracas — 2007 — 2011

Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) — Windows XP / Server 2003 track — 2005 — 2006

Languages — Spanish native · English C1 (EF Standard English Test) · French A1