Ashish Kumar

Senior Software Engineer

mail@ashfame.com · ashfame.com · github.com/ashfame · linkedin.com/in/ashfame · Dubai, UAE

Experience

Senior Software Engineer, Automattic

Jul 2021 – Oct 2026 · Remote

- 2026 · **WordPress Playground**: reliability fixes and new features across the project.
- 2026 · **Playground on WordPress.com**: refined the onboarding shipped last year.
- 2026 · **SQLite database driver**: reviewed pull requests, plus a few fixes of my own.
- 2025 · **WordPress Playground**: WordPress running entirely in the browser, on WebAssembly.
- 2025 · **Playground on WordPress.com**: onboarding that spins up a real WordPress site in the browser, before signup.
- 2025 · **Collaborative editing in Gutenberg**: real-time co-editing in the block editor, powered by PHP alone.
- 2025 · **WordPress Studio**: features and fixes in Automattic's agentic local development app.
- 2024 · **Data Liberation**: a browser extension to select parts of any website and preview them as WordPress content, live, in the browser.
- 2021–23 · **Matrix at Automattic**: moving Automattic's and WordPress.org's Slack to Matrix. Built a **Slack-to-Matrix migrator**, **Neurobot & Maubot plugins** for workflow parity, **Automattrix** to host homeservers, **Chatrix** to embed a Matrix client in WordPress, and an **OpenID Connect Server** plugin. Upstream contributions to Synapse, Hydrogen and synadm.

Open Source Engineer, Independent, self-funded

Nov 2019 – Jul 2021 · Remote

- **AirTrust OS**: an immutable OS for ARM single-board computers, built to run sensitive operations fully air-gapped.
- **Air-Gapped Crypto Vault**: keeps crypto keys on a machine that never touches a network, with a trustless architecture.

CTO, Anatta (previously Anatta Design)

Feb 2012 – Oct 2019 · Remote

- Led the engineering team delivering client projects, and set up the internal processes that kept delivery smooth.
- More WordPress and Shopify builds and data migrations than I can count, solving problems as they came up.
- Built **AwesomeCheckout** and **MyAbandonedCart** for Magento stores: checkout flows designed around Baymard's checkout usability research to lift conversions, an approach the whole industry later adopted.

WordPress and bbPress Developer, Independent

Jul 2009 – Jan 2012 · Remote

WordPress and bbPress themes and plugins for several clients.

Summary

Seventeen years of WordPress, from publisher themes to running the whole thing inside a browser tab. Most recently on WordPress Playground at Automattic: PHP in WebAssembly, SQLite instead of MySQL, blueprints for reproducible sites.

Skills

AI · TypeScript · PHP · Go · WebAssembly · SQLite · MySQL · Node · Linux · WordPress · Gutenberg · Matrix · Docker

Education

B.Tech. (Hons.), Computer Science Engineering
RTU University, Rajasthan, India
Aug 2006 – Jul 2010 · AGGR: 75.1%

Open source

wordpress-playground
Playground team

sqlite-database-integration
Contributor

WordPress core
Core contributor since 2015

WordPress.org plugins
Plugin developer

WordPress.org Meta
Meta team since 2022

Matrix
Upstream contributor

Ashish Kumar

Curriculum vitae, page two

Open source contributions

WordPress Playground · Since 2024	41 merged PRs · 36 reviewed
Playground on WordPress.com · Since 2025	21 merged PRs · 13 reviewed
SQLite database driver · Since 2026	1 merged PR · 5 reviewed
Contributor Toolkit · Since 2026	3 merged PRs · 6 reviewed
PHP Toolkit · Since 2025	3 merged PRs
OpenID Connect Server · Since 2022	43 merged PRs · 22 reviewed
Data Liberation · 2024–26	77 merged PRs · 37 reviewed
WordPress Studio · 2025	8 merged PRs · 2 reviewed
Chatrix · 2022–25	26 merged PRs · 44 reviewed
Neurobot · 2022	51 merged PRs · 25 reviewed
Matrix bots · 2023	8 merged PRs
Slack bridge · 2023	8 merged PRs · 10 reviewed
Hydrogen · 2023	3 merged PRs · 7 reviewed
Synapse · 2022	5 merged PRs
synadm · 2022	3 merged PRs

Projects

Sojourn · TypeScript, React · ashfame.github.io/sojourn — Track your presence in many countries for residency purposes: stays, the rules they count towards, and the proof behind each one. Data stays in your browser.

Daycraft · TypeScript · ashfame.github.io/daycraft — Itinerary planner for multiple trips: plan days in a list or a calendar, drag them around, print the result. Data stays in your browser.

PagePerch · TypeScript — Chrome side-panel extension that keeps one note per web page, offline first, with optional sync. Later to be used for URL-specific AI communication.

Blueprint Bundle Maker · PHP — Experimental WordPress plugin that packs the current site into a Playground blueprint bundle, ready to open in Playground.

Dossier · Python — Merges PDFs into a single one, stamping annexure notations on every page. Runs in a Docker container.

Gutenberg Collaborative Editing · TypeScript — WordPress plugin for real-time collaborative editing in the block editor, without any external service.

HTML Knitter · Go — Turns an HTML page into one self-contained file, inlining its stylesheets and fonts, optionally stripping JavaScript.

Reverse proxy inspector · Go — A dummy upstream server to run behind a reverse proxy, to see which headers it sets.

AirTrust OS · Shell — Build script for an air-gapped Raspberry Pi OS: remasters PiCore into an ISO, packaged with the crypto vault application.

WordPress.org

WordPress core
Props in WordPress 4.2, 5.9, 6.5 and 6.9.

WordPress.org plugins
Six plugins, among them Like Thumbnail (1,000+ installs), OpenID Connect Server and Chatrix.

WordPress.org Meta
Matrix chat for the WordPress community, with Chatrix and the OpenID Connect Server.

Homelab

MacBook Air 13 inch M5

MacBook Pro 16 inch M3 Max

HomeServer (Gaming rig)

Linode (California, USA)

Linode (Mumbai, IN)

Elsewhere

blog.ashfame.com

github.com/ashfame

profiles.wordpress.org/ashfame/

linkedin.com/in/ashfame/

x.com/ashfame

References

Available on request.