

# Ashish Kumar

Senior Software Engineer · Automattic

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

## Experience

### Senior Software Engineer, Automattic

*Jul 2021 – Present · Remote*

- **2026 · WordPress Playground**: reliability fixes and new features across the project.
- **2026 · Playground on WordPress.com**: refining the onboarding shipped last year.
- **2026 · SQLite database driver**: reviewing 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, **Automatrix** to host homeservers, **Chatrux** 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. Currently 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

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

## Projects

**Sojourn** · TypeScript, React · [ashfame.github.io/sojourn](https://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](https://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 Pro 16 inch M3 Max

HomeServer (Gaming rig)

Linode (California, USA)

Linode (Mumbai, IN)

## Elsewhere

[blog.ashfame.com](https://blog.ashfame.com)

[github.com/ashfame](https://github.com/ashfame)

[profiles.wordpress.org/ashfame/](https://profiles.wordpress.org/ashfame/)

[linkedin.com/in/ashfame/](https://linkedin.com/in/ashfame/)

[x.com/ashfame](https://x.com/ashfame)

## References

Available on request.