

ASHESH THAPA

Technical Lead · Product Engineer · System Administrator

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SUMMARY

Product engineer and technical lead with 6+ years building and operating commercial WordPress software end to end — architecture, full-stack implementation, release, and the production infrastructure it runs on. Currently lead product engineering across ThemeGrill's commercial product portfolio, own the company's commerce and licensing platform, administer cloud infrastructure, and mentor the engineering team.

EXPERIENCE

ThemeGrill Pvt Ltd Kathmandu, Nepal

Apr 2020 – Present

Technical Lead & System Administrator · previously Senior Developer & Team Lead

- **Product ownership:** Technical lead for AllCoach (coaching and practice-management platform) and PDFDraft (drag-and-drop PDF builder), from architecture through release and production operation.
- **Commerce platform:** Architected ThemeGrill's headless commerce and licensing system — Easy Digital Downloads as source of truth, FastSpring payments, custom checkout, customer portal and store administration, connected by an event-driven API layer designed for recovery as well as success paths.
- **Infrastructure:** Own production infrastructure across DigitalOcean, Cloudways, SiteGround, AWS/S3 and Cloudflare — Linux/Nginx/Caddy administration, server hardening, access control, and backup and recovery systems.
- **Internal platforms:** Built and operate an n8n automation platform connecting internal tools, APIs and recurring workflows, and a Metabase analytics environment that made operational data self-serve for the wider team.
- **Product engineering:** Shipped and maintain 10+ plugins across the ThemeGrill and WPEverest portfolios — among them BlockArt Blocks, Magazine Blocks, Masteriyo LMS, Everest Forms, User Registration & Membership and the ThemeGrill Demo Importer — plus the WooCommerce marketplace extensions Customize My Account and Registration Form Fields.
- **Themes:** Led the theme development team across a portfolio of 15+ WordPress.org themes — including Zakra, ColorMag, Spacious and Flash — owning architecture, release cycles, code review and long-term maintenance.
- **Integrations:** Integrated payment and licensing providers — FastSpring, Freemius and Lemon Squeezy — across wpeverest.com, themegrill.com, zakratheme.com and masteriyo.com.
- **Leadership:** Mentor engineers and interns through onboarding, architecture and code review, and hands-on technical training; guide technical decisions across product teams.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages PHP, JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, Bash, SQL

Frontend React, Next.js, Vue, Svelte, Tailwind CSS, Sass, Vite, Webpack

Backend Node.js, Express, Laravel, WordPress (themes, plugins, Gutenberg), REST APIs

Data PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB

Infrastructure Linux, Nginx, Caddy, Docker, DigitalOcean, AWS/S3, Cloudflare, Cloudways, SiteGround

Automation & Tooling n8n, Metabase, Git/GitHub, Figma, Notion

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Information Management (BIM)

2019

Morgan International College, affiliated with Tribhuvan University

OPEN SOURCE

- **WordPress Core Contributor:** Credited in the WordPress 6.6 release; contributions merged into the Gutenberg project. WordPress.org badges for Plugin Development, Photo Contribution (2023) and Translation (2021).
- **Published products:** Author and maintainer of WordPress themes and plugins distributed on WordPress.org and the WooCommerce marketplace, serving a combined user base across the ThemeGrill product portfolio.