
Introduction

As software developers one of the key foundations of success is speed and efficiency, especially being a Laravel developer, as you know which is the future of PHP. Before you delve into this article let me introduce myself, I'm Larry a Laravel developer who's been coding with Laravel for about 7 years. My mission is to make web development more approachable, inviting everyone to engage with technology, not as an impossible challenge, but as a canvas for creativity and self-expression.

Let me also introduce you to Glimpse a tool designed to streamline Laravel development by automatically deploying GitHub pull requests to preview environments. A tool that I have created that not only makes your life easier but also boosts and increases your speed and efficiency!

But why was Glimpse created? What challenges does it solve? And how does it compare to other alternatives?

Well let's dive in and we will uncover everything you need to know about Glimpse...

History

Deploying applications has always been a crucial part of the development process, but it hasn't always been smooth sailing. Traditionally, setting up environments to preview changes before merging them into the main codebase was time-consuming and prone to errors. Developers often had to manually configure servers, which not only delayed the deployment process but also increased the risk of inconsistencies between development, staging, and production environments.

I'm sure we can agree we've all felt like punching our screens at one point, right?

My frustration with these inefficiencies led me to create Glimpse. As a developer who relies on Laravel and GitHub, I realized there was a need for a tool that could automate the deployment of pull requests to live preview environments.

This way, developers could quickly see how their changes would work in a real-world setting before committing them. The idea was simple: Make the deployment process faster, more reliable, and easier for everyone involved. So everyone has a smile on their face.

Why Glimpse? The Problems It Solves

The process of deploying changes for review can be cumbersome, especially when working in teams or on large projects. Some of the common problems developers fall into are:

Manual Deployment Hassles: Setting up environments manually for each pull request is time-consuming and prone to mistakes.

Inconsistent Environments: Differences between development, staging, and production environments can lead to bugs that are hard to track down.

Delayed Feedback: Without quick and accessible previews, the review process slows down, which can delay the entire project.

Now you can see why Glimpse was born into existence. At its core, Glimpse takes your GitHub pull requests and automatically sets up a live preview environment for each one. This environment mirrors your production setup, allowing you to see how your changes will behave in the real world before they're merged.

The tool integrates seamlessly with Laravel Forge, which manages the servers and handles the deployment process.

This means that every time a developer submits a pull request, Glimpse spins up a new environment where the code can be reviewed, tested, and validated. Once the changes are approved, they can be merged with confidence, knowing they've been thoroughly vetted.

How to use Glimpse

Now onto the fun stuff, Getting started with Glimpse is super straightforward:

Integration: First, integrate Glimpse with your GitHub repository and Laravel Forge account.

Automatic Deployment: Once integrated, Glimpse will automatically detect new pull requests in your GitHub repository and deploy them to a live preview environment.

Review and Test: Developers and stakeholders can access the preview environment to review and test the changes.

Merge with Confidence: After thorough testing, the pull request can be merged, knowing the changes work as expected.

Glimpse also offers several customization options, allowing you to tailor the deployment process to fit your specific needs. Whether you're working on a small project or managing a large team, Glimpse makes it easy to ensure that your deployments are smooth and error-free.

Have a look for yourself for what laravel developers just like you had to say:

Common Questions and Issues

Here are some common questions and potential issues you might encounter when you start using Glimpse:

- **What if the deployment fails?**
 - If a deployment fails, Glimpse will provide detailed logs to help you diagnose the issue. You can also revert to a previous stable environment if needed.
- **How does Glimpse handle environment variables?**
 - Glimpse securely manages environment variables, ensuring that sensitive information is protected while maintaining consistency across environments.
- **Can I customize the preview environments?**
 - Yes, you can customize the environment configuration to match your production setup closely. This includes setting up specific PHP versions, database configurations, and more.
- **What if I'm not using Laravel Forge?**
 - Currently, Glimpse is designed to work seamlessly with Laravel Forge, but we're exploring integrations with other deployment platforms based on user demand.

Summary

In today's fast-paced development landscape, tools like Glimpse make a difference. By automating the deployment of GitHub pull requests to live preview environments, Glimpse not only saves you time (As we know time is money) but also reduces the risk of bugs

making it into production, which gives you the comfort of sleeping just fine at night.

It doesn't matter if you are a solo dev or part of a large team, Glimpse will make sure to streamline your workflow and make your development process more efficient.

Now it's time for you to take control of your time and have and to take your development to a new area with Glimpse.

For \$0 Today you can get your hands on a 7 Day Free Trial! and experience the benefits of seamless deployment and faster feedback.

SECURE YOUR FREE TRIAL TODAY