

# Cies Breijs June 12, 1982

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## Summary

*Creative software engineer with roots in the open source (FLOSS) movement, an entrepreneurial mindset and a passion for user/customer centered software development.*

AT THE AGE of seven (1989) I wrote my first lines using a LOGO-like language on an MSX (pre-PC). Two years later I attended a conference on an emerging new technology, the Internet, at the Erasmus University from which I would graduate 16 years later.

After being introduced to the open source movement in 1997, I taught myself a variety of skills with help from the open source community. Since 2002 I am a contributor to the KDE project, as my pet project KTurtle got admitted into their *edu* module.

KTurtle aims to make programming most easy and touchable. It is well suited for teaching (children) the

basics of programming, math and geometry. Through this project I hope to give others the same opportunity I was given: to learn programming at early age.

From 2003 to 2007 I studied at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and graduated in *Business and Computer Science* (one curriculum). In college I mainly focused on the economics of open source, rapid application development (RAD) and the semantic web technology stack (RDF/RDFS, OWL and SPARQL).

After graduation I traveled Europe and Asia during a two year sabbatical, I worked on several occasions (see experience below) and initiated an open source project (Truetopia – a web application that facilitates self-governing online communities).

I am currently evaluating the plethora of interesting employment and business opportunities in IT while quietly working on a product to be released later this year.

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## Experience

- **Intellectap**

*IT Consultant*

Intellectap is a social-sector advisory firm serving corporates, non-profits, development agencies and governments working in developing markets. I assessed their software development team and methodologies, trained their developers and build several web applications. One of those apps is Mostfit, an open source MIS for [microcredit](#) lenders.

*IT & Strategy Consultant*

Mostfit became a success and I was called in to solve several technical challenges, look at potential growth strategies, and assist in making a business case for this product in a company of its own.

- **Zarafa**

*QA & Release Manager*

Zarafa might be the fastest growing open source product company in Europe. For an open source enthusiast like myself, working with Zarafa is a wonderful opportunity. Reporting directly to the CEO, Brian Josef, and working closely with the CTO, Steve Hardy, I drove the change to test automation and continuous integration. Furthermore I architected new documentation and translation systems. My Indian work experiences proved particularly valuable, as I was sent to analyze and streamline their outsourced operations in India.

- **Dharma Publishing**

*IT Consultant*

Dharma Publishing, the worlds largest Buddhist publisher, is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization that helps to preserve Tibetan Buddhism and culture. I build them a [web store](#), and moved the infrastructure of all their web media to a nearly zero maintenance setup that they can maintain themselves.

- **KDE**

*Software Engineer*

KTurtle is an educational programming environment that simplifies learning the basics of programming. At early age I learned programming using MSX-LOGO, by creating KTurtle I want to ensure future generation's access to a similar piece of software. I was honored when KTurtle got admitted to KDE in 2003.

- **Truetopia Project**

*Initiator*

The Truetopia Project is an open source web application (Rails) to facilitate self-governing communities. It provides a workflow for collaborative problem identification and solution design.

MUMBAI & HYDERABAD, INDIA

Nov '08 – Feb '09

Jan '10 – present

DELFT, THE NETHERLANDS

Dec '09 – Jan '11

NEAR SAN FRANCISCO (CA), USA

Nov '09 – Dec '09

[edu.kde.org/kturtle](http://edu.kde.org/kturtle)

Dec '03 – present

[truetopiaproject.org](http://truetopiaproject.org)

Nov '07 – Apr '10

- Dhurakij Pundit University International College** BANGKOK, THAILAND  
*Guest Lecturer* Sep '09  
 Dr. Pilun Piyasirivej and Mr. Michel Bauwens invited me to give two guest lectures: one on the open source movement and one on the semantic web.
- Opendream** BANGKOK, THAILAND  
*IT Consultant* Aug '09 – Sep '09  
 Architected and largely implemented an open source media sharing web service (REST api) that facilitates video uploads, transcoding and streaming. Coached their development team on system design, ruby development (using Merb/Rails) and testing strategies such as TDD/BDD.
- Commuun** ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS  
*Senior Visionary* Jul '06 – Sep '09  
 I helped Peter Duijnste (the proprietor of Commuun) with setting up the technical infrastructure, defining the core competences and creating a brand for his internet company. We collaborated on several web applications (all Rails apps) within the context of his company.
- Erasmus University Rotterdam** ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS  
*Guest Lecturer* Jul '06 – Jul '09  
 Yearly guest lectures on the phenomenon of open source, as part of the first year curriculum of *Computer Science & Economics*.
- LIP Automatisering** BREDA, THE NETHERLANDS  
*Software Auditor* Sep '06  
 Audited their flag ship product *LIP Suite*: an ERP solution for construction companies.
- The Health Agency** DELFT & ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS  
*Software Engineer* Jun '05 – Feb '06  
 I worked on their innovative content management system (CMS) targeted towards the health care sector. It is developed from scratch in Python and makes heavy use of PostgreSQL, XML/XSLT and TwistedMatrix.
- Software Auditor* Dec '06  
 Assessed their Python/Zope/ZoDB-based web framework re-engineering project.

Please refer to [my LinkedIn profile](#) for the complete list of work experiences along with recommendations.

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## Education

- Erasmus University Rotterdam** ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS  
*Bachelor degree in Computer Science & Economics* 2004 – 2007  
 Focussed on the economics of open source, rapid application development (RAD) and the semantic web technology stack (RDF/RDFS, OWL and SPARQL).
- Technical University Delft** DELFT, THE NETHERLANDS  
*Industrial Design Engineering (discontinued)* 2001 – 2002
- Libanon Lyceum** ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS  
*VWO* 1994 – 2000

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## Skills

**Technical specialties:** Web app development using Ruby (on Rails), Python and Java. Solid knowledge of web technologies: HTML, CSS, SQL, XML, RDF, REST, SOAP and JavaScript (mainly jQuery). Linux administration skills: bash, Apache, MySQL, PostgreSQL, virtualization/cloud (OpenVZ, VMware, KVM, Xen and EC2), datacenter automation (Puppet and Chef), continuous integration (Hudson) and Ruby/PHP web application stacks. Thorough C++ skills (mainly using Nokia's Qt lib for cross platform GUI apps).

**Natural languages:** Dutch (*mother tongue*), English (*full professional proficiency*), German (*limited working proficiency*), French (*elementary proficiency*) and Mandarin Chinese (*beginner*).

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## Interests

**Non-exhaustive and in alphabetical order:** art, Buddhism, cryptography, music, open source, philosophy, software engineering, travel, typography (e.g. graphic design,  $\LaTeX$ ), UX and vegetarian cooking.