

# Michiel van Oosten

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## Company Recruitment team

October 25, 2014

Company, Inc.  
123 somestreet  
some city

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to ask for you to consider this cover letter somewhat more carefully than you would normally. As you can see on the attached CV I have not so many programming credentials to my name as you would normally see. Why it might still be interesting for us to get in contact is because of the following:

- Despite not having a formal CS education I might still have enough coding chops to be of help to you. I am a self-taught programmer as I am a self-taught pianist. I finished a conservatorium degree without previous piano lessons, this still amazes me really. I have been at least as thorough, and still am, in educating myself in programming. I have been programming on and off since I was 13 years old. Piano and music was just an enormous challenge when I was 19 and diverted me in some sense from the direction I always was going to go anyway. See following point:
- I went to VWO (Science preparatory school), then started a maths degree in Leiden (then philosophy, picked up piano, then history, and finally piano).
- I have a thorough knowledge of javascript, having written it for a couple of years now. See my github account.
- Since learning of lisp it's my favorite language, however web apps are written in javascript. Maybe not anymore now. I'm switching to ClojureScript.
- To prove to myself I can write javascript I wrote my own server, build and module system. It does for me what most people use Express, Grunt and Browserify for.
- I'm familiar with and/or knowledgeable of most current libs/trends/frameworks/languages.
- Not fond of OOPS, prefer functional approach, I write javascript in a functional style as much I can, avoiding *this* wherever I can..
- Plans and ideas for multiple apps/utilities.
- Studying CS curriculum when time allows
- Interested in web apps, not so much web sites, and any technology that will make web apps easier to make, front and backend.
- Working knowledge of html and css (and sass and less etc), but not overly fond of it.

- Would love the opportunity to work with any of the more modern languages such as Haskell, Julia, D, Rust, Go, Clojure and Scala, but sticking with Javascript for now for reasons of marketability.
- Dream project: write Lisp operating system.
- Main interest: computer systems' software reliability, robustness. Ultimately software should be somehow self repairing, self-reliant and with built-in redundancy, and as a whole extremely fault tolerant.
- I even keep a blog!!

I believe the future is in the web as far as apps are concerned. I'm looking for similar minded people interested in building these using the best languages, the smartest libraries and cleverest implementations resulting in fast deployment and quick iteration. I am interested in learning and applying anything to further that goal. See also my cape project.

Interests beyond web applications are distributed programming, operating systems, compilers but foremost robustness, reliability and ease of use of computer systems. A computer shouldn't fail but it does so often.

Some more background info is on [careers.stackoverflow](#).

Yours faithfully,

**Michiel van Oosten**

*Attached: curriculum vitæ*



# Michiel van Oosten

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*Self-taught. Analytical and thorough. Forever inquisitive.*

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## Education

- 1982–1988 **VWO (Preperatory Scientific Education)**, *Pax Christi College*, Druten, The Netherlands, .  
Graduated with maths and science subjects. Beta subjects at Dutch high schools.
- 1988–1993 **Courses in Maths, Philosophy and History**, *Universities of Leiden and Amsterdam*, Leiden and Amsterdam, The Netherlands, .  
Enrolled in maths degree right after high school. Changed to philosophy after a year. Took some time off then started history degree. Left in '93 for Australia to do music education.
- 1995–1998 **Diploma of Music**, *Griffith University*, Brisbane, Australia, .  
Self taught pianist from 89. Auditioned in '93. Music is difficult but one of the few worthy challenges in life I think.

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## Work

- 2013–2014 **IT Consultant**, *Mamre*, Brisbane, Australia.  
Disability organisation. Implemented databases, websites and supplied general IT support
- Developed two websites [www.mamre.org.au](http://www.mamre.org.au) and [www.pavetheway.org.au](http://www.pavetheway.org.au)
  - Technologies used: Drupal, CiviCRM, Apache, Linux, VPS (Linode).
  - Held tutorials on the use of Drupal and CivCRM.
- 2012–2014 **Developer and maintainer of website**, *Firstdoor*, Brisbane, Australia.  
Business website
- Built from scratch on nodejs [www.firstdoor.com.au](http://www.firstdoor.com.au)
  - Technologies used: Javascript, HTML, CSS, Nodejs, AngularJS
  - Served by custom built server: [github.com/michieljoris/bb-server](https://github.com/michieljoris/bb-server)
- 2011–2013 **Developer of web application**, *Multicap*, Brisbane, Australia.  
Roster and time sheet management app.
- Built using CouchDB and SmartClient
- 2001–2013 **Piano studio**, *Self-employed*, Brisbane, Australia.  
Self taught pianist. Started playing piano at 19. Finished music conservatorium at 1998. Some public performances.
- Loved teaching all levels for 10+ years, giving occasional charity concerts.

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## Miscellaneous

2011–2014 **A number of other websites and projects**, *Private contractors*, Brisbane, Australia.

Some built on Nodejs, some using Drupal

◦ Examples: [www.greenglass-terrariums.com](http://www.greenglass-terrariums.com), [julangart.com](http://julangart.com)

## Computer Languages

Javascript	<b>Advanced</b>	<i>Main language used so last couple of years</i>
Lisp	<b>Intermediate</b>	<i>Did TEOCS in Common Lisp, Scheme for SICP</i>
Clojure(Script)	<b>Beginner</b>	<i>But very keen to pick up..</i>
Java	<b>Intermediate</b>	<i>Not my favorite</i>
C	<b>Intermediate</b>	<i>Learned to program in C as a teenager</i>
HTML, CSS	<b>Intermediate</b>	<i>Know what I need</i>
Haskell, Ruby, CoffeeScript, Erlang, PHP	<b>Beginner</b>	<i>Dabbled and/or read some books on them</i>

## Computer skills

Databases	CouchDB, MongoDB, MySql	Libs	AngularJS
Editors	Emacs, Vim, Eclipse	CMS	Drupal, Joomla
OS	Ubuntu, Arch, Windows, MaxOs	Other	Docker, Vagrant

## Natural Languages

Dutch	<b>Fluent</b>	<i>Mother tongue</i>
English	<b>Fluent</b>	<i>Resident of Australia since '94</i>
German	<b>Intermediate</b>	<i>Understand it mostly</i>
French	<b>High school level</b>	

## Other interests

◦ Speed skating, windsurfing, sailing, classical music, literature.