

# Michiel Joris van Oosten

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## Company Recruitment team

November 5, 2014

Company, Inc.  
123 somestreet  
some city

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a Dutchman who has lived in Australia for the past 20 years. I have a family and two young teenager daughters there. I've taught piano for the last 12 years. I've programmed since I was 13. I've come to Holland to find work as a programmer and bring the family over.

I am self-taught in both programming and piano. I finished a conservatorium education in my twenties in Australia after starting to play at 19. Programming has been an (almost clandestine) undercurrent throughout my whole life, and after having explored music for some time now I am now elevating that undercurrent to my life's next occupation.

I believe the future is in the web as far as apps are concerned. They should be self-deploying, and backendless. I've written some proof of concepts and secondary modules to progress these ideas, most in JavaScript, however now transitioning to ClojureScript. With tools and libs such as Docker, CouchDB, Haproxy, Consul/Serf/CoreOS, NodeJS, Cloud API's etc, a programmer can adopt and usurp previously separate concerns such as deployment and feature/product development, testing and iteration.

I am interested in talking to similar minded people interested in building web apps using the best languages, the smartest libraries and cleverest implementations resulting in the fastest deployment and quickest iteration. I am interested in learning and applying anything to further that goal.

I hope to bring thoroughness, ideas and architectural (and artistic) insight to a team and projects. I enjoy designing and thinking about long term design and implementation of these designs. I am working on improving my skills as practical programmer every day since I have to live with my own creations, and keep building on them. My mantras are defry, describe and delimit:

- **defry**: don't ever f\$%\*#^g repeat your self! if yes -> refactor!!
- **describe** what you're doing! Clear logical flow, descriptive naming, choice comments, few or no corner case handling or out of place logic, explicitly type or make clear what variables are supposed to contain, use name params instead of list etc
- **delimit**: break up in modules, pure/independant functions, not bigger than my head per function, clear global structure/architecture

Also: libraries over frameworks, beauty over speed, minimum code over added features, 12factor apps, react over angular.

I can explain what I understand (born teacher..). When I don't understand something I can get very baffled, frustrated and feel very stupid very quickly. Then I study till I understand it or decide it's nonsense. In a team I'm the 'yes but' person.

My coding environment: Laptop running Linux (Ubuntu), i3wm, Emacs and Chrome/Firefox, my own tools. All my code is on github.

Some more background info:

- I went to VWO (Science preparatory school), courses in maths, history and philosophy at Universities of Leiden and Amsterdam. Degree in piano at Brisbane Griffith Conservatorium.
- Favorite language is lisp after working through TEOCS in Common Lisp.
- Wrote my own server, build and module system. It does for me what most people use Express, Grunt/Gulp/Brunch and Browserify for.
- Java and C++ put me thoroughly off OOP. Functional approach is better.
- Studying CS curriculum when time allows (SICP will be finished one day..)
- Working knowledge of html and css (and sass and less etc), but not overly fond of it.
- Would love to write in and learn more about Haskell and Erlang, but also D, Rust and Julia.
- Dream project: write Lisp operating system..
- Wasting too much time on hackernews.
- Major long term 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!!

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

Yours faithfully,

**Michiel Joris van Oosten**

*Attached: curriculum vitae*



# Michiel Joris van Oosten

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*Self taught programmer. 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, MacOS	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.