

Pieter-Jan Sterkens

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PROFILE

I'm a motivated master's in engineering and computer science graduate with a strong interest in software engineering, AI and cyber security. Through hands-on internships, university and personal projects, I have gained valuable experience in both software development and design. These experiences have strengthened my teamwork, communication and time management skills. Passionate about the ever-evolving technology space, I'm always eager to explore new technologies and expand my technical expertise.

EDUCATION

KU Leuven

Master of Engineering Science: Computer Science Option: AI

Leuven, Belgium
Sep 2022 – June 2025

Bachelor of Science: Informatics

Leuven, Belgium
Sep 2019 – June 2023

Politehnica University of Bucharest

Athens course: Software Reliability

Bucharest, Romania
Nov 2022

EXPERIENCE

Panenco

Leuven, Belgium
July 2024 - August 2024

Intern backend software engineer

- Worked on the backend of the webapp [Qit Online](#).
- Refactoring Behat test cases to be compatible with PHPUnit.
- Refactoring and optimizing API endpoints.
- Optimizing database queries, solving N+1 problems.
- Designing and implementing new backend features.
- Working in an Agile environment, participating in stand-up meetings, contributing to sprints and code reviews.

Key skills: PHP, Backend web development, TypeScript, Databases, Doctrine

Luciad

Leuven, Belgium
July 2023

Intern R&D

- Researching the open-source [GeoMesa](#) toolkit.
- Designing and conducting performance experiments, collaborating closely with the team to align findings with the company's needs.
- Documenting my findings in Confluence pages.

Key skills: Distributed Databases, Geospatial Data, Apache Spark, Apache Accumulo, Cassandra, Java

SKILLS

Skills: Python, Java, Machine learning, Backend engineering, PHP, JavaScript, C, C++, Big data, Databases, SQL, Spring Boot, Doctrine, Linux, Microarchitectural attacks, Intel SGX enclaves

Languages: Dutch native, English fluent, French basic