

CV Sebastiaan de Kwant

is an opiniated autodidact software developer, architect and software leader with a strong ambition to do things right. With a thorough commitment to quality and a selectively pragmatic approach he aims for long term sustainability in software projects. He possesses an entrepreneurial spirit and gets excited as soon as the economics of software development come into play: what choices can be made when constraints arise? He is a very strong analytical thinker able to transcend the problem domain of the mere software.

Experience

Tech lead at Cleverbase

May 2017 - April 2019

As a tech lead at Cleverbase I lead the software development efforts in a high demand security environment. Cleverbase is a Qualified Trust Service Provider. Dealing with the certification and audit burden was an effort influencing the entire organisation, especially the development team.

I was influential in important ops/infrastructure projects, coached junior and medior developers, was responsible for code quality standards & processes, responsible for extending the team (recruitment) and had formal performance reviews with the members of the development team. I was a member of the management team (representative for technology.) Involved in strategic (technical) decision making. Software architecure was an important part of my work.

We worked with Akka, Scala, Mongo, Postgres, Ansible, AWS.

CTO at Pallas Athena Group

Feb 2015 - July 2016

As CTO of the Pallas Athena Group I was responsible for all technical decissions. I was the architect of, and did build / implement large parts of a Multi-Level Marketing eCommerce system that is very extensible. It does not restrict the business developers of the company to a confined structure but provides them with the means to create ad hoc flexible payment structures. I managed the front-end development efforts of colleagues in this function while I also gave guidance to other backend-developers.

We used primarily JVM based techniques (Java, lots of Scala) as well as a Graph Database, Akka and RabbitMQ for asynchronous processing. The software consisted of a variety of REST-ful APIs and was entirely stateless. We were keen on test driven development.

The software that was written under my technical leadership will help Athena to continue its growth and is a strong foundation for a bright future.

Freelance independent software engineer

April 2013 - April 2017

Whilst being a freelance software developer I solved many complex problems. Oftentimes for (design)agencies that did not need specific knowledge often enough to hire an expert as an employee, but that could use my technical ability and advice once in a while to insure their projects success.

A selection of some of the projects I worked on:

- For the Dutch leading platform of reviews for service providers Opiness, I did set up a large and quite customized ElasticSearch search engine. In this same project I helped improve the accuracy of their weighted average review scores by replacing a bunch of inefficient PHP code with a very fast SQL procedure that implemented all the rules (one of which was i.e. that a review that was written more recently should have a greater weight-factor) and could recalculate all the averages of +2M reviews in well under 120 seconds. When we evaluated the project, the agency director Taeke Reijenga (see also References) made the remark “Without your support we would not have been able to deliver this project on time nor with the desired (level of) functionality”
- In cooperation with Supersteil (nowadays TamTam) I developed a new Backend for the KPN iPhone application Pointers. This was a painful measure, but a very necessary one: the app grew more popular than the initial backend could handle and a quick solution was needed. We corrected some of the most urgent problems in the old backend, giving us some leverage in the form of time, and quickly began making plans for a new one. We achieved speed improvements of (average) +25000%. Used technologies were: Redis, Elasticsearch, NodeJS with Express. Our iOS developer came from an international background, so this project had English as main language of communication.

References

Cleverbase

- Sjaak van den Berg, operations lead

Pallas Athena Group

- Tom Reckamn, CEO
- Jan-Willem Gmelig Meyling, Senior Backend Developer

Freelance projects

- Leon Van Rees, Project Manager Supersteil / Tamtam

- Taeke Reijenga, CEO Level level

Interests / passions

- Classical music, opera
- Computer science
- Functional programming
- Politics
- Ethics
- Economy (with a special interest in monetary policy)
- Philosophy
- Literature
- Poetry