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👋 Dear Tailwind Labs team,

Congratulations on your exquisite job descriptions, they are as enjoyable to read as the Tailwind CSS docs 🤖.

I'd like to apply for the **Staff Software Engineer** job.

It would be an **honor** to be part of the Tailwind Labs team and to help improve such **great products**. Tailwind CSS made a **huge impact** on the front-end world for the better, and it keeps raising the bar by **simplifying** new CSS features for the masses. The quality of your releases and the sharp attention you pay to the details demonstrates **how much you care**.

I've been working for more than **10 years** at **RTBF**¹ which is the national French speaking broadcaster in Belgium. After 9 years spent as a contractor, I finally had the rare opportunity to sign as an employee. Meanwhile, I hosted several internal events sharing about **Accessibility**², aiming for simpler user experience, and picking the most **semantic HTML** tags.

In 2021, we started a full refactor of our site, and I convinced our team and the technological board to ditch our old BEM + Compass combo in favor of Next.js & Tailwind CSS.

In my opinion, the most underrated advantage of Tailwind CSS is that it **ships only purged CSS**. Simply by respecting a single rule³, we effortlessly ship a CSS free of any dead rules. It's a kind of magic ! I did not have to explain to them the struggle we were facing with unwanted inherited styles or specificity issues because they already experienced it.

To be honest, I was getting tired of writing CSS, sticking with BEM notification felt like a failure, and **Tailwind CSS brought me back so much joy** in my professional life that I'll always be grateful.

Some colleagues were worried about the possible merge conflicts within the class attributes, and because we could not find a suitable tool, I took the initiative.

I started **eslint-plugin-tailwindcss**⁴ as a side project, built for our own needs but available to all. The code quality and velocity are terrible; it was my first experience writing an eslint plugin while discovering Tailwind CSS. I started from an old yeoman template, and I only work on it on my spare time.

Yet it forced me to get a deeper understanding of the internals of Tailwind CSS.

I already used the Tailwind CSS IntelliSense but we wanted to be able to integrate validation rules into our **CI/CD pipelines** so ESLint was meeting our needs.

¹ <https://www.rtbef.be/> (Radio, TV, web-stream)

² I did collaborate with a Belgian association focused on A11Y: <https://www.anysurfer.be/en>

³ <https://v2.tailwindcss.com/docs/optimizing-for-production#writing-purgeable-html>

⁴ <https://www.npmjs.com/package/eslint-plugin-tailwindcss>

Today the plugin is getting around 2M monthly downloads, it is used by ~32k⁵, offers 8 rules, has a few sponsors⁶, but the best rewards come from such comments⁷ about the plugin.



Exploring the v4 codebase is very exciting, and whether I get the job or not, it will definitely be beneficial for the rewriting of the next major version of the eslint plugin in **TypeScript**⁸.

I love Tailwind CSS, so much that I would consider leaving a job that took me 10 years to get. The technology stack described in the job description sounds perfect for me. I've never tried Rust, but I'm not afraid of learning new skills, especially if I can do it in pair-programming with talented colleagues such as Robin.

Thank you for reading my candidature, and thank you creating and maintaining such great products.

Long live Tailwind CSS 🦊

-François Massart-

⁵ Amongst which <https://github.com/shadcn-ui/ui>, <https://github.com/bitwarden/clients> ...

⁶ We're talking ~USD 70/month 😄

⁷ <https://twitter.com/buildWithKris/status/1751671038696358171>

⁸ Take a look at my PluralSight skill IQs from 2018:
69th percentile in A11Y, 84th percentile in TypeScript...
<https://app.pluralsight.com/profile/francoismassart>