

Summary

Entrepreneurial-minded geek with roots in the open source movement. Passionately enabling software-related teams to deliver by measuring outcomes, structuring/fixing processes and facilitating individuals to grow.

At the age of seven (1989) Cies wrote his first lines of code in a LOGO-like language on an MSX (pre-PC). Two years later he attended a conference on an emerging new technology, the Internet, at the Erasmus University from which he would graduate 16 years later with a Business Computer Science degree

After being introduced to the open source movement in 1997, he taught himself a variety of skills including system administration and programming (Bash, Python, Ruby & C++). By 2002 he got his pet project KTurtle —a zero-entry-barrier programming environment— included into KDE's *edu* module, and thereby almost every Linux distribution.

Extensively travelled Europe and Asia after graduating. On return the professional life became a mix of hands-on work on startups and managerial positions; while settling as a husband and father in personal life.

Experience

Hoppering

Head of Technology

ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Apr '12 – present

Hoppering is an open source minded “full-service” internet agency. Lead the development department reporting directly to managing director and co-founder Marijn Bom. Drafted and carried out the vision for my department: got everyone to look beyond PHP, implemented continuous delivery, recruited viciously, restructured to fixed team configurations, introduced DevOps (Puppet), hived off IT-ops, helped to set up customer support, launched 3 open source projects. Contributed to the sales pitches and in charge of the software architecture of all technically challenging projects.

Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences

Professional Advisory Committee Member & Guest Lecturer

ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Sep '12 – present

Intellicap/ISTPL

IT Consultant

MUMBAI, PUNE & HYDERABAD, INDIA

Nov '08 – Feb '09

Intellicap is a financial advisory firm serving corporates, non-profits, development agencies and governments working in developing markets. Assessed their software development team and methodologies, trained their developers and build several web applications. One of those apps is [Mostfit](#), an open source MIS for [microcredit](#) lenders.

IT & Strategy Consultant

Jan '10 – Aug '11

Called in to solve several technical challenges and look at potential growth strategies for [Mostfit](#).

CTO

Oct '11 – Feb '12

Proudly joined the C-family of Intellicap's software division, ISTPL, to make [Mostfit](#) the nr.1 software solution for micro credit lenders around the globe. Contracts got terminated half a year later due to investment issues.

Zarafa

QA & Release Manager

DELFT, THE NETHERLANDS

Dec '09 – Jan '11

Zarafa might be the fastest growing open source product company in Europe, making a drop-in replacement for MS Exchange. Reported directly to the CEO, Brian Josef, and worked closely with the CTO, Steve Hardy. In charge of the 6 men strong QA department. Established test automation and continuous integration. Architected and implemented an all-integrated documentation and translation system that employed community effort. Got sent to India to analyse and streamline their out-sourced operations.

Dharma Publishing

IT Consultant

NEAR SAN FRANCISCO (CA), USA

Nov '09 – Dec '09

Dharma Publishing, the worlds largest Buddhist publisher, is a non-profit, all-volunteer organisation that helps to preserve Tibetan Buddhism and culture. Built their [web shop](#), and moved their digital content sales to SaaS applications.

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| KDE | edu.kde.org/kturtle |
| Software Engineer | <i>Dec '03 – present</i> |
| KTurtle is an educational programming environment that simplifies learning the basics of programming. KTurtle is intended as a gift to future generations: a simple environment to get started with programming. In 2003 KTurtle got admitted to the KDE project. | |
| Truetopia Project | truetopiaproject.org |
| Initiator | <i>Nov '07 – Apr '10</i> |
| The Truetopia Project is an open source web application (Rails) to facilitate self-governing communities. It provides a workflow for collaborative problem identification and solution design. | |
| Dhurakij Pundit University International College | BANGKOK, THAILAND |
| Guest Lecturer | <i>Sep '09</i> |
| Invited by Dr. Pilun Piyasirivej and Mr. Michel Bauwens for two guest lectures: the open source movement and the semantic web. | |
| Opendream | BANGKOK, THAILAND |
| IT Consultant | <i>Aug '09 – Sep '09</i> |
| Architected and largely implemented an open source media sharing web service (REST API) that facilitates video uploads, transcoding and streaming. Coached their development team on system design, Ruby web development and software engineering methodologies (Scrum/TDD/BDD). | |
| Commuun | ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS |
| Senior Visionary | <i>Jul '06 – Sep '09</i> |
| Set up the technical infrastructure, defined the business cases, created the brand and built several Rails-based web applications with Peter Duijnste, the proprietor of Commuun. | |
| Erasmus University Rotterdam | ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS |
| Guest Lecturer | <i>Jul '06 – Jul '09</i> |
| Spoke on the phenomenon of open source on request of Prof. Michiel van Wezel. | |
| The Health Agency (now MindDistrict) | DELFT & ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS |
| Software Engineer | <i>Jun '05 – Feb '06</i> |
| Worked on their CMS (written in Python and uses PostgreSQL, XML/XSLT and Twisted). | |
| Software Auditor | <i>Dec '06</i> |
| Assessed their Python/Zope/ZoDB-based product re-engineering effort. | |
| <i>Please refer to my LinkedIn profile for a more complete list of work experiences along with recommendations.</i> | |

Education

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| Erasmus University Rotterdam | ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS |
| BSc in Business Computer Science (CS & Economics) | <i>2004 – 2007</i> |
| Main projects on the economics of open source and the semantic web technology stack (RDF/RDFS, OWL & SPARQL). Got crash courses in popular certificates such as ITIL, Scrum, PRINCE2, ASL and BiSL. | |
| Technical University Delft | DELFT, THE NETHERLANDS |
| Industrial Design Engineering (<i>discontinued</i>) | <i>2001 – 2002</i> |
| Libanon Lyceum | ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS |
| VWO (Pre-University Secondary Education) | <i>1994 – 2000</i> |

Skills

- Technical expertise:** Leading and recruiting for team(s) of software workers. Big fan of Agile methodologies and continuous delivery and functional programming. Enjoys writing Ruby/Python/Java/C++ and Haskell. Solid knowledge of web technologies. Able to architect and implement distributed/HA systems. Strong Linux administration skills (e.g. Bash scripting, Apache/NGINX, Postgres/My/NoSQL, ElasticSearch). Well experienced with virtualization/cloud (Docker, VMware, KVM, Xen and EC2) and DevOps (Puppet and Chef). Emacs and VIM user.
- Natural languages:** Dutch (*mother tongue*), English (*full professional proficiency*), German (*limited working proficiency*), French (*elementary proficiency*) and Mandarin Chinese (*beginner*).

Interests

Non-exhaustive and in alphabetical order: art, Buddhism, cryptography, functional programming, Go (board game), history, music (from classical and jazz to Berlin-techno), NLP, open source, permaculture, philosophy, startups, travel, typography (e.g. graphic design, \LaTeX), UX-design and vegetarian cooking.