Rik Wanders

Senior Full Stack Developer

Profile 👤

📍 Ronda, Spain

🔤 English: Fluent, Dutch: Native

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Summary 🧭

Dutch Senior Full Stack Developer residing in Spain, with 18+ years experience specializing in Python & Node.js ecosystems. Experienced in scaling complex & high-traffic applications and leading development teams.

Technical Highlights ⭐

🔹 **18+ years** of full stack development experience.

</> Expertise in modern **Python, JavaScript & Node.js** ecosystems.

👥 **Team leadership** and **project management** experience.

🖥 Additional experience in **DevOps & CI/CD.**

🚀 Skilled in developing scalable solutions for **high-traffic applications**.

🏠 **5+ years remote work** and distributed team collaboration experience.

🤖 **AI-accelerated development** skills with security best practices.

Technical Expertise </>

Frontend

JavaScript, Node.js, TypeScript, React, React Native, Svelte, Jest, Web Components, Tailwind CSS, Sass

Backend

Python, Django, Flask, FastAPI, RESTful API & LLM integrations, Celery, Silk, Beautifulsoup

Databases

PostgreSQL, MySQL, MariaDB, SQLite, SQL optimization, MongoDB, Elasticsearch

Development tools

Git, GitHub, GitHub Flow, Claude Code, Cursor, VSCode, Neovim

DevOps

Docker (Compose), CI/CD, Ansible, GitHub Actions, Serverless functions

Cloud Platforms

Vercel, Linode, AWS

Serving, Caching & Load Balancing

Nginx, Varnish, Redis, Memcached, HAProxy

Additional Languages

Shell / Bash, Lua, C, Objective-C, PHP

Chipta

👤 Lead Developer   📅 Sep 2014 - Jun 2024

🏢 Ticketing Service   📍 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

🔗 chipta.com/

Led technical development of innovative ticketing platform for 10 years, scaling from concept to processing thousands of tickets per minute during peak events. Transformed proof of concept into robust, scalable platform serving thousands of events.

Key Achievements:

👥 Team Leadership

Managed development teams of 3-5 developers using agile methodologies and code reviews

📈 Platform Scalability

Architected scalable systems handling extreme traffic spikes, delivering 30-60% performance improvements

🛡 System Reliability

Created comprehensive testing suite (+80% coverage) and CI/CD system enabling reliable regular releases

$ Payment Integration

Implemented payment integrations with multiple providers, processing tens of millions in transactions
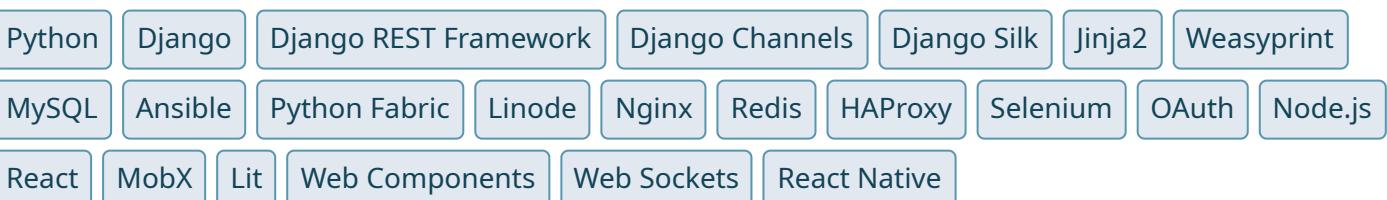
🖥 Technical Innovation

Developed custom authentication, mailing, and localization systems with backward compatibility

🌐 Market Expansion

Created internationalization capabilities enabling market expansion

Technologies Used:

Python | Django | Django REST Framework | Django Channels | Django Silk | Jinja2 | Weasyprint

MySQL | Ansible | Python Fabric | Linode | Nginx | Redis | HAProxy | Selenium | OAuth | Node.js

React | MobX | Lit | Web Components | Web Sockets | React Native

Tender-it

👤 Lead Developer   📅 Mar 2015 - Jun 2022

🏢 Tender Discovery Platform   📍 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Built comprehensive tender discovery platform from scratch, enabling companies to efficiently find and track public procurement opportunities. Delivered complete platform with intuitive interface and administrative tools as part-time engagement.

Key Achievements:

🔧 **Product Development**

Designed and developed complete platform from concept to production

🔍 **Search Innovation**

Implemented Elasticsearch-powered search engine for efficient tender discovery

🖥 **Data Automation**

Created automated web crawling system indexing thousands of tenders daily

💲 **Revenue Model**

Built subscription-based authentication with recurring payments supporting business growth

👑 **User Experience**

Delivered intuitive "saved searches" and email notifications for user retention

✒ **Frontend Optimization**

Collaborated on frontend optimization using Vue.js

Technologies Used:

Python   Django   Django REST Framework   Django Celery   Python Requests   MySQL
Beautifulsoup   Elasticsearch   Linode   Nginx   Node.js   React   Vue.js   Webpack

Professional Experience

TravelBird

👤 Senior Full Stack 📅 Mar 2013 - Aug 2014

🏢 Online Travel Agent 📍 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

🔗 travelbird.com/

Contributed to mobile app development during rapid growth phase (50 to 250+ employees), supporting European market expansion. Delivered iOS app and mobile website during critical period for travel industry mobile adoption.
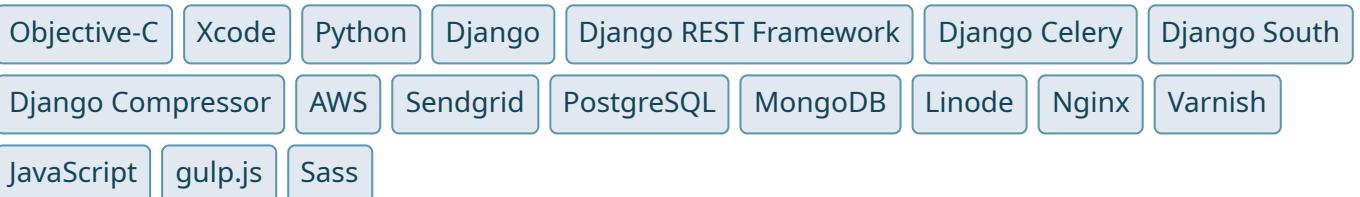
Key Achievements:

📱 Mobile & API Development	✉ Email Marketing Platform
Built iOS app and robust REST API using Django REST Framework for mobile platforms	Developed comprehensive email marketing system for customer acquisition and retention

Technologies Used:

Objective-C   Xcode   Python   Django   Django REST Framework   Django Celery   Django South

Django Compressor   AWS   Sendgrid   PostgreSQL   MongoDB   Linode   Nginx   Varnish

JavaScript   gulp.js   Sass

SWIS

👤 Mid-level Web Developer   📅 Aug 2011 - Feb 2013

🏢 Web Development Agency   📍 Leiden, The Netherlands

🔗 swis.nl/

Delivered web solutions for high-profile clients including major e-commerce and government organizations as part of dedicated Scrum team. Maintained agency's reputation for quality while meeting diverse client requirements.
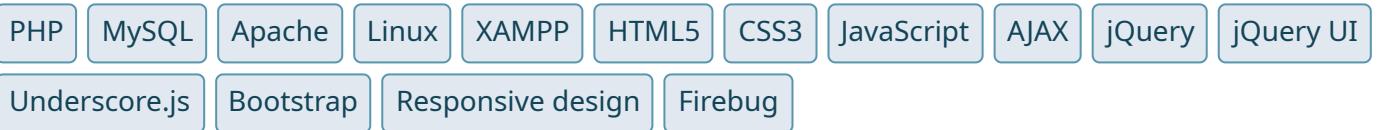
Key Achievements:

🗣 Client Delivery
Delivered web projects for major clients (Bol.com, Gemeente Amsterdam) using Scrum methodology

🖥 Frontend & CMS Development
Developed advanced jQuery/UX skills and mastered in-house CMS for rapid customization

Technologies Used:

PHP   MySQL   Apache   Linux   XAMPP   HTML5   CSS3   JavaScript   AJAX   jQuery   jQuery UI
Underscore.js   Bootstrap   Responsive design   Firebug

Professional Experience

Gamepoint

👤 Junior / Mid-level Web Developer   📅 Jun 2007 - Jun 2011

🏢 Casual Gaming / Community   📍 The Hague, The Netherlands

🔗 gamepoint.biz/

Progressed from junior to mid-level developer at established gaming community platform serving hundreds of thousands of users. Contributed to platform stability, feature development, and system enhancements.

Key Achievements:

🗄 Platform Development	👥 Team Collaboration & Growth
Implemented payment integrations, internationalization, and optimized MySQL database structures	Advanced from junior to mid-level in 10+ developer team, contributing to large-scale PHP codebase

Technologies Used:

PHP   MySQL   Linux   nginx   Memcached   HTML   CSS   JavaScript   jQuery   AJAX

YUI Library

References

Michaël de Groot - Founder of Chipta

"Rik modernized our client-facing interfaces and implemented optimizations that delivered substantial performance improvements. His work enabled us to process thousands of tickets rapidly during our busiest periods."

Elmar Krack - Co-founder of Tender-it

"Rik demonstrated exceptional technical leadership by designing and developing our entire platform from the ground up, handling both backend and frontend development with impressive skill."

Contact details available upon request.