Rik Wanders

Senior Full Stack Developer

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.

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EXPERIENCE

Lead Developer
Sep 2014 - Jun 2024

Chipta · Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- Built and managed diverse development teams of 3-5 developers, using agile methodologies and code reviewing processes that optimized efficiency and delivery speed
- Architected and optimized systems to handle extreme traffic spikes, delivering 30-60% speed improvements through strategic query optimization, caching, and infrastructure scaling
- Created extensive testing suite (+80% coverage) and CI/CD system, radically improving deployment reliability & speed and enabling regular releases
- Implemented and maintained payment service provider integrations with multiple providers (Mollie, Pay.nl, PayPal), processing tens of millions in transactions reliably
- Developed custom authentication, mailing, and localization systems, supporting custom needs and backward compatibility
- Created multi-language & country platform capabilities that enabled international market expansion and supported global event organizers

Lead Developer
Mar 2015 - Jun 2022

Tender-it · Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- Designed and developed entire platform (backend and frontend) from concept to production
- Implemented an extensive search engine using Elasticsearch, making it easy and time effective for users to find suitable tenders
- Created automated web crawling system that index thousands of public tenders daily, providing comprehensive market coverage
- Built subscription-based authentication with recurring payments that supports sustainable business model and user growth
- Delivered intuitive "saved searches" interface and email notification system that supported user engagement and retention
- Successfully collaborated with frontend developer to optimize frontend experience using Vue.js

Senior Full Stack
Mar 2013 - Aug 2014

TravelBird · Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- Built and maintained iOS application as part of mobile team, supporting mobile bookings during a period of rapid company growth
- Designed and implemented robust REST API using Django REST Framework, that accommodated iOS & Android apps and mobile website
- Ensured consistent user experience across multiple mobile platforms and web interfaces
- Worked on comprehensive email marketing system that supported customer acquisition and retention campaigns

Mid-level Web Developer   Aug 2011 - Feb 2013

SWIS · Leiden, The Netherlands

- Successfully delivered web projects for major clients including Bol.com, EP, Gemeente Amsterdam, and Gemeente Haarlemmermeer
- Contributed to Scrum team that consistently met client deadlines and budget requirements
- Developed advanced jQuery and UX skills that improved user engagement metrics across client projects
- Mastered in-house built CMS system, enabling rapid development and client customization capabilities

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

Gamepoint · The Hague, The Netherlands

- Successfully implemented multiple payment integrations that supported platform monetization and user transactions
- Contributed to internationalization and localization system that enabled platform expansion in other countries
- Designed and optimized MySQL database structures that improved query performance and system reliability
- Worked effectively in 10+ developer team environment, contributing to large-scale PHP codebase maintenance and feature development
- Advanced from junior to mid-level developer, demonstrating consistent skill development and increasing responsibility

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Frontend:**
  JavaScript, Node.js, TypeScript, React, React Native, Svelte, Jest, Web Components, Tailwind CSS, Sass

- **Databases:**
  PostgreSQL, MySQL, MariaDB, SQLite, SQL optimization, MongoDB, Elasticsearch

- **DevOps:**
  Docker (Compose), CI/CD, Ansible, GitHub Actions, Serverless functions

- **Serving, Caching & Load Balancing:**
  Nginx, Varnish, Redis, Memcached, HAProxy

- **Backend:**
  Python, Django, Flask, FastAPI, RESTful API & LLM integrations, Celery, Silk, Beautifulsoup

- **Development tools:**
  Git, GitHub, GitHub Flow, Claude Code, Cursor, VSCode, Neovim

- **Cloud Platforms:**
  Vercel, Linode, AWS

- **Additional Languages:**
  Shell / Bash, Lua, C, Objective-C, PHP