Rik Wanders

Senior Full Stack Developer

Building scalable web applications for remote teams

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SUMMARY

Dutch Senior Full Stack Developer residing in Spain, 12+ years Full Stack Python & Node.js experience, scaling complex, high-traffic & data heavy applications with Django & React, and leading agile development teams. Additional skills in DevOps, CI/CD & UX design. Always current with industry trends, AI, and security practices. Thrives in agile teams and/or startup environments. 5+ years remote work experience.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Chipta | Amsterdam, NL | Lead Developer | 08/2017 - 08/2024

- Optimized development team (3-5 devs) output with 25%, by leading agile methods and strict code review processes
- Enabled processing thousands of orders per minute, by optimizing SQL queries & Python/Django processes with 30-60%
- Decreased regression with 90%, by establishing TDD with quality testing suite using Django & Selenium (+80% coverage)
- Reduced deploy time -80% & enabled regular releases, by orchestrating CI/CD systems on Linode using Ansible & Python
- Streamlined onboarding, by coordinating development environment setup of 4 Docker microservices in Docker Compose
- Maintained backward compatibility with legacy PHP system & database, by customizing Django codebase
- Enabled clients to organize automatically managed online events with Zoom, by integrating Zoom with OAuth in Django
- Processed tens of millions in payment transactions, by building payment service integrations (Mollie, Pay.nl, Paypal)

Tender-it | Amsterdam, NL | Lead Developer | 02/2014 - 05/2017

- Delivered complete platform with Python, Django & React in consultation with non-technical founders
- Transformed thousands of tenders daily into structured data, by making web crawlers & importers with Django & Celery
- Developed industry-first Elasticsearch-powered search engine for filtering & scoring hundreds of thousands of tenders
- Enabled market entry via subscription system with monthly/yearly recurring payments, using React, Django & Celery
- Supported user retention by developing automatic notification mailing system for user preferences & saved searches
- Provided professional platform aesthetics by enhancing frontend in coordination with frontend developer using Vue.js

TravelBird | Amsterdam, NL | Senior Full Stack Developer | 02/2013 - 07/2014

- Shipped native iOS booking app in Objective-C scrum team (4) within 5 months, handling 15%+ of bookings in 3 months
- Designed REST API using DRF, deployed on AWS, accommodating iOS & Android apps and mobile website
- Supported acquisition by sending thousands of emails with marketing system using Python, Django, Celery & SendGrid

SWIS | Leiden, NL | Mid-level Web Developer | 07/2011 - 01/2013

- Delivered web projects for major clients (Bol.com) as part of company's best of 5 Scrum teams using custom PHP CMS
- Cultivated advanced frontend & UX skills with jQuery & CSS3, increasing user product engagement & client satisfaction

Gamepoint | The Hague, NL | Junior / Mid-level Web Developer | 07/2007 - 05/2011

- Implemented payment integrations, internationalization, and optimized MySQL database structures & queries
- Promoted to mid-level developer in 10+ developer team, maintaining large-scale PHP codebase & Linux servers setup

Budget Advies Groep | Cruquius, NL | Junior Web developer | 08/2006 - 05/2007

Festivalinfo | Amsterdam, NL | Internship Web Developer | 02/2006 - 07/2006

SKILLS

- **Backend:** Python | Django | Django REST Framework (DRF) | Flask | FastAPI | RESTful APIs | LLM integrations | pytest
- **Frontend:** JavaScript | Node.js | TypeScript | React Native | React | Svelte | Tailwind CSS | Jest
- **Databases:** PostgreSQL | MySQL | MariaDB | SQLite | SQL optimization | Elasticsearch | MongoDB
- **Development Tools:** Git | GitHub | Git Flow | Claude Code | Cursor | Neovim | tmux
- **DevOps:** Docker | Docker Compose | GitLab CI/CD | GitHub Actions | Ansible | Python Fabric
- **Cloud Platforms:** Amazon Web Services | AWS EC2 | AWS S3 | AWS Lambda | Vercel | Linode
- **Dev Methodologies:** Agile | Scrum | XP | AI-Assisted Development | Secure by design | TDD | UXD

SIDE PROJECTS

Django Admin Relation Links | ⊘ **gitaarik/django-admin-relation-links** ★ 108

Django Admin navigation enhancement, simplifying navigation between related database objects. Open-sourced on GitHub and PyPi. Used in production at Chipta & Tender-it.

Git Submodules Guide | ⊘ **gist.github.com/gitaarik/8735255** ★ 1028

Popular GitHub Gist explaining Git submodules fundamentals. Helped many developers understand submodules effectively.

Monkful | ⊘ **gitaarik/monkful** ★ 10

Python package to easily create RESTful API's for MongoEngine documents used for MongoDB database. Inspired by Django REST framework. Used in production at Travelbird.

EDUCATION

Software Development, Dutch Vocational Education (MBO), Graduation Year 2007

Nova College, Hoofddorp, NL

Theater technician, Dutch Vocational Education (MBO), 07/2003 - 05/2004

Mediacollege Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL

Pre-vocational education, Dutch VMBO-t education, Graduation Year 2003

Kaj Munk College, Hoofddorp, NL

Primary education, Dutch primary education, Graduation Year 1999

Valkenburgschool, Heemstede, NL

LANGUAGES

Dutch: Native
English: Fluent

REFERENCES

Michaël de Groot

"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

"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