



Rik Wanders

Senior Full Stack Developer

Python • Django • React • Node.js

Profile



Ronda, Spain

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Fluent English, Native Dutch

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Summary



Dutch Senior Full Stack Developer, currently residing in Spain. Specialized in Python & Node.js ecosystems, with a wide background in full stack engineering, designing complex and high-traffic applications. Through past leadership roles developed strong skills for product responsibility, project management and team leadership.

I'm currently looking for exciting and challenging remote projects (6-12 months), or longer term part-time roles, where I can apply my expertise and creativity. I thrive in dynamic agile teams or startup environments that realize innovative ideas into real world products.

Key Qualifications



- ◆ 18+ years of full stack development experience.
- ◁/▷ Expertise in modern Python, JavaScript & Node.js ecosystems.
- ▬ Additional experience in Linux, DevOps & CI/CD.
- ✿ Team leadership and project management experience.
- 🕒 Skilled in AI-accelerated development, with business security in mind.
- 🏠 5+ years remote work and distributed team collaboration experience.
- 📢 Proven track record scaling high-traffic applications.

Technical Expertise

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Expert Knowledge 🏰

Python

Django, REST Framework, Celery, Channels, Silk

JavaScript / Node.js

React, Svelte, Web Components

SQL Databases

PostgreSQL, MySQL/MariaDB, SQLite - schema design, indexing, optimization

Web Technologies

HTML5, CSS3 (Tailwind), REST APIs

Web Protocols

HTTP/HTTPS, DNS, TLS/SSL, SSH, FTP/SFTP

Shell Scripting / CLI Tools

bash, advanced CLI tools (find, grep, vim, sed, awk, curl, rsync)

AI / LLM development tools

Claude Code, Cursor, VSCode

Git (GitHub, GitLab)

GitHub, GitLab, advanced workflows, submodules

Working Knowledge 🔧

Linux & DevOps

System administration, CI/CD, Docker (Compose), Ansible, Nginx, Apache

Cloud Platforms

Vercel, Linode, Amazon Web Services (AWS)

JavaScript / Node.js

TypeScript, React Native, Vue.js

NoSQL Databases

Elasticsearch, Redis, MongoDB

Caching & Load Balancing

Varnish, Memcached, HAProxy

>_ Additional Languages

Lua, C, Objective-C, PHP

Personality & Methodologies



Personality Traits

Responsible

Independent

Disciplined

Organized

Proactive

Creative

Problem solving

Result-oriented

Determined

Development Methodologies

Agile, Scrum, Kanban, Extreme Programming (XP)

AI-accelerated development

Secure by design

Test-driven development (TDD)

User experience design (UXD)

Component-based development

Extensive code reviewing

Writing and maintaining documentation

Pair-programming

Employment History



Chipta

Lead Developer

Ticketing Service

chipta.com/

September 2014 – June 2024

Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Joined this innovative ticketing startup as Lead Developer, scaling the platform from concept to processing thousands of tickets per minute during peak events. Successfully led technical development through 10 years of growth, making Chipta a competitive alternative for independent event organizers.

Key Achievements:

- **Team Leadership:** Built and managed diverse development teams of 3-5 developers, using agile methodologies that optimized efficiency and delivery speed
- **Platform Scalability:** Architected and optimized systems to handle extreme traffic spikes, enabling the platform to process thousands of ticket sales per minute without downtime
- **Performance Optimization:** Delivered 40-60% speed improvements on high-traffic pages through strategic query optimization and caching implementation
- **System Reliability:** Created extensive testing suite (+80% coverage) and CI/CD system, radically improving deployment reliability & speed and enabling regular releases
- **Revenue Growth:** Built essential payment integrations with multiple providers (Mollie, Pay.nl, PayPal) that processed tens of millions in ticket sales over the platform's lifetime
- **Technical Innovation:** Developed custom authentication, mailing, and localization systems, supporting custom needs and backward compatibility
- **Market Expansion:** Created multi-language & country platform capabilities that enabled international market expansion and supported global event organizers

Technical Impact:

Transformed a proof of concept into a robust, scalable ticketing platform serving thousands of events and processing high-volume traffic reliably.

Technologies Used:

Python

Django

Django REST Framework

Django Channels

Django Debug Toolbar

Django Silk

Jinja2

Weasyprint

MySQL

Ansible

Python Fabric

Linode

Nginx

Redis Selenium OAuth Node.js React MobX Lit Web Components

Web Sockets Webpack React Native

Tender-it

- 👤 Lead Developer
- 💻 Tender Discovery Platform
- 📅 March 2015 – June 2022
- 📍 Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Built a comprehensive tender discovery platform from scratch, enabling companies to efficiently find and track public procurement opportunities. Delivered a complete solution that automated manual tender search processes for businesses.

Note: This was a part-time engagement that I combined with my main focus on Chipta.

Key Achievements:

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

Technical Impact:

Transformed a startup idea into a complete, extensible tender platform with a intuitive interface and solid administrative tools.

Technologies Used:

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

TravelBird

👤 Senior Full Stack & iOS Developer

🏢 Online Travel Agent

🔗 travelbird.com/

📅 March 2013 – August 2014

📍 Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Joined during rapid growth phase (50 to 250+ employees) and contributed to scaling mobile presence during the company's expansion across European markets.

Key Achievements:

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

Industry Impact:

Successfully delivered mobile apps and mobile website as part of an agile team during a critical period when mobile app presence was becoming essential for travel industry competitiveness.

Technologies Used:

Objective-C

Xcode

Python

Django

Django REST Framework

Django Celery

Django South

Django Compressor

Sendgrid

PostgreSQL

Linode

Nginx

JavaScript

gulp.js

Sass

SWIS

- 👤 Mid-level Web Developer
- 🏢 Web Development Agency
- 🌐 swis.nl/
- 📅 August 2011 – February 2013
- 📍 Leiden, The Netherlands



Delivered web solutions for high-profile clients including major e-commerce and government organizations, working as part of a dedicated Scrum team in a fast-paced agency environment with diverse project requirements.

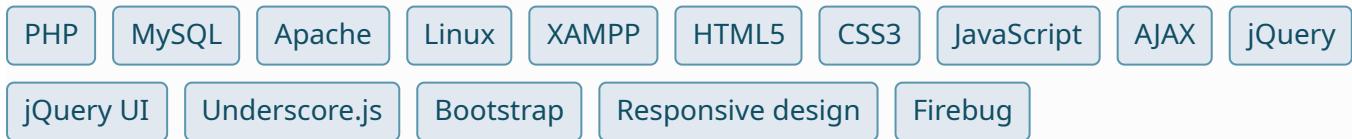
Key Achievements:

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

Client Impact:

Delivered high-quality web solutions that met diverse client needs while maintaining agency's reputation for quality and reliability.

Technologies Used:



Gamepoint

Junior / Mid-level Web Developer

Casual Gaming / Community

gamepoint.biz/

June 2007 – June 2011

The Hague, The Netherlands



GamePoint

Started career at established gaming community platform, progressing from junior to mid-level developer while contributing to platform stability and feature development.

Key Achievements:

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

Platform Impact:

Supported stable operation and feature enhancement of established gaming community serving hundreds of thousands of active users.

Technologies Used:

PHP

MySQL

nginx

HTML

CSS

JavaScript

jQuery

AJAX

YUI Library

References



To confirm my experience with full stack development in dynamic, agile and startup environments, my most recent employers are willing to provide references by telephone. Feel free to ask me for their contact details.

Michaël de Groot

Founder of Chipta

Former employer - willing to provide references by telephone



Elmar Krack

Co-founder of Tender-it

Former employer - willing to provide references by telephone

