Rik Wanders

Senior Full Stack Developer

Profile 👤

📍 Ronda, Spain

🔤 Fluent English, Native Dutch

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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.

Seeking challenging remote full-time role in a dynamic agile team building innovative products.

Key Qualifications ⭐

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

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

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

🖳 Additional experience in **Linux, 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 business security in mind.

Technical Expertise </>

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

⊕ Frontend Tools
Webpack, Vite, ESLint, Prettier, Tailwind CSS, Sass

◈ Git (GitHub, GitLab)
GitHub, GitLab, advanced workflows, submodules

⊞ AI / LLM development tools
Claude Code, Cursor

Working Knowledge ⛑

⊟ DevOps
CI/CD, Docker (Compose), Ansible

☁ Cloud Platforms
Vercel, Linode

⊕ JavaScript / Node.js
TypeScript, React Native, Vue.js

⊟ NoSQL Databases
Elasticsearch, Redis, MongoDB

⊟ Serving, Caching & Load Balancing
Nginx, Varnish, Memcached, HAProxy

>_ Additional Languages
Lua, C, Objective-C, PHP

Exploring 🔍

⊕ Python
FastAPI, pandas, scikit-learn, LangChain

⊕ JavaScript / Node.js
Next.js, Zustand, Jest, Prisma

☁ Cloud Platforms
AWS, Azure, GCP

⊟ DevOps
Terraform, GitHub Actions, Kubernetes

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

Chipta

👤 Lead Developer   📅 September 2014 – June 2024

🏢 Ticketing Service   📍 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

🔗 chipta.com/

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, delivering 40-60% speed improvements through strategic query optimization, caching, and infrastructure scaling

🛡 System Reliability

Created extensive testing suite (+80% coverage) and CI/CD system, radically improving deployment reliability & speed and enabling regular releases

$ Payment Integration

Implemented and maintained payment service provider integrations with multiple providers (Mollie, Pay.nl, PayPal), ensuring reliable transaction processing for the platform

🖥 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

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 Silk | Jinja2 | Weasyprint | MySQL | Ansible | Python Fabric | Linode | Nginx | Redis | HAProxy | Selenium | OAuth | Node.js | React | MobX | Lit | Web Components | Web Sockets | Webpack | React Native

Tender-it

👤 Lead Developer   📅 March 2015 – June 2022

🏢 Tender Discovery Platform   📍 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 with recurring payments 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 colaborated with frontend developer to optimize frontend experience using Vue.js

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   📅 March 2013 – August 2014

🏢 Online Travel Agent   📍 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

🔗 travelbird.com/

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

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   MongoDB   Linode   Nginx   Varnish   JavaScript   gulp.js   Sass

SWIS

👤 Mid-level Web Developer   📅 August 2011 – February 2013

🏢 Web Development Agency   📍 Leiden, The Netherlands

🔗 swis.nl/

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

Impact:

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

Technologies Used:

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

Gamepoint

👤 Junior / Mid-level Web Developer   📅 June 2007 – June 2011

🏢 Casual Gaming / Community   📍 The Hague, The Netherlands

🔗 gamepoint.biz/

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 system 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

Impact:

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

Technologies Used:

PHP   MySQL   nginx   Memcached   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