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, Web Components, Tailwind CSS, Sass, Jest

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

Professional Experience

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

Built and managed diverse development teams of 3-5 developers, using agile methodologies and code reviewing processes that optimized efficiency and delivery speed

Platform Scalability

Architected and optimized systems to handle extreme traffic spikes, delivering 30-60% 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), processing tens of millions in transactions reliably
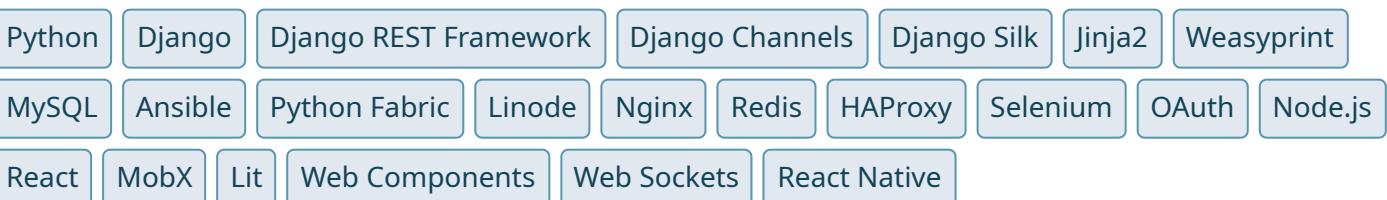
Technical Innovation

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

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

Professional Experience

Tender-it

👤 Lead Developer   📅 Mar 2015 - Jun 2022

🏢 Tender Discovery Platform   📍 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

TENDER-IT
FIND IT, WIN IT

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 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 collaborated with frontend developer to optimize frontend experience 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 & iOS Developer   📅 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 Development	🔌 API Architecture
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
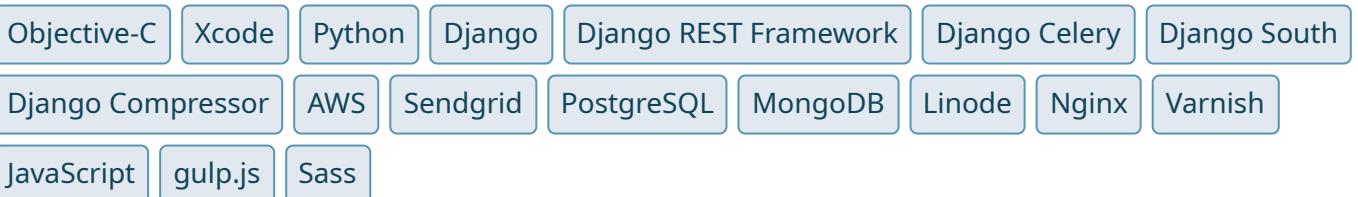
🖥 Cross-Platform Integration	✉ Email Marketing Platform
Ensured consistent user experience across multiple mobile platforms and web interfaces	Worked on comprehensive email marketing system that supported customer acquisition and retention campaigns

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

Professional Experience

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 Success**	◎ **Agile Workflow**
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

📄 **Frontend Skills**	⚙ **Custom CMS Expertise**
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

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:

💲 Payment Systems	🌐 International Expansion
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

🛢 Database Design	👥 Team Collaboration
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

🚀 Career Growth
Advanced from junior to mid-level developer, demonstrating consistent skill development and increasing responsibility

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.