

Rik Wanders

Senior Full Stack Developer

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PROFESSIONAL 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 SKILLS

- 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

- **Role:** Lead Developer
- **Location:** Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- **Time:** Sep 2014 - Jun 2024
- **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

Tender-it

- **Role:** Lead Developer
- **Location:** Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- **Time:** Mar 2015 - Jun 2022
- **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

TravelBird

- **Role:** Senior Full Stack & iOS Developer
- **Location:** Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- **Time:** Mar 2013 - Aug 2014
- **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

SWIS

- **Role:** Mid-level Web Developer
- **Location:** Leiden, The Netherlands
- **Time:** Aug 2011 - Feb 2013
- **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

Gamepoint

- **Role:** Junior / Mid-level Web Developer
- **Location:** The Hague, The Netherlands
- **Time:** Jun 2007 - Jun 2011
- **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

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.