

Rik Wanders

Senior Full Stack Developer

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Languages: English: Fluent, Dutch: Native

Location: Ronda, Spain

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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

Python (Expert)

Django, REST Framework, Celery, Channels, Silk, REST APIs, OOP, Requests, BeautifulSoup, uv

JavaScript / Node.js (Expert)

React, Svelte, SvelteKit, Web Components, Lit, Drizzle, MobX, async/await

SQL Databases (Expert)

PostgreSQL, MySQL, MariaDB, SQLite, Schema design, indexing, optimization

Frontend Tools (Expert)

ESLint, Prettier, Tailwind CSS, Sass

Git (GitHub, GitLab) (Expert)

GitHub, GitLab, advanced workflows, submodules

AI / LLM development tools (Expert)

Claude Code, Cursor

DevOps (Proficient)

CI/CD, Docker (Compose), Ansible

Cloud Platforms (Proficient)

Vercel, Linode

Additional JavaScript / Node.js (Proficient)

TypeScript, React Native, Vue.js

NoSQL Databases (Proficient)

Elasticsearch, Redis, MongoDB

Serving, Caching & Load Balancing (Proficient)

Nginx, Varnish, Memcached, HAProxy

Additional Languages (Proficient)

Lua, C, Objective-C, PHP

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lead Developer

Chipta | Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Sep 2014 - Jun 2024

Ticketing Service

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

Lead Developer

Tender-it | Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Mar 2015 - Jun 2022

Tender Discovery Platform

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

Senior Full Stack & iOS Developer

TravelBird | Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Mar 2013 - Aug 2014

Online Travel Agent

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

Mid-level Web Developer

SWIS | Leiden, The Netherlands

Aug 2011 - Feb 2013

Web Development Agency

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

Junior / Mid-level Web Developer

Gamepoint | The Hague, The Netherlands

Jun 2007 - Jun 2011

Casual Gaming / Community

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

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.