

# Rik Wanders

## Senior Full-Stack Developer

Building scalable web applications for remote teams

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- **GitHub:** <https://github.com/gitaarik>

## SUMMARY

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Dutch Senior Full-Stack Developer residing in Spain. 10+ years Python & Node.js experience, scaling complex, high-traffic & data heavy applications with Django & React, and leading development teams. Additional skills in DevOps, CI/CD & UXD. Current with industry trends, AI & security. Thrives in agile teams / startup environments. 5+ years remote work experience.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Chipta | Amsterdam, NL | Lead Developer | 09/2015 - 03/2025

- Led distributed development team (3-5 devs) with agile methods and strict code review processes, optimizing team output
- Ensured uptime and performance of critical services (infra, apps, deployment) on platform with 10,000+ monthly active users
- Scaled platform to handle thousands of orders per minute, by caching & optimizing SQL & Python/Django process up to 60%
- Decreased regression with 90%, by establishing TDD with quality testing suite using Django & Selenium (+80% coverage)
- Reduced deploy time -80% & enabled regular releases, by orchestrating CI/CD systems on Linode using Ansible & Python
- Streamlined onboarding, by coordinating development environment setup of 4 Docker microservices in Docker Compose
- Maintained backward compatibility with legacy PHP system & database, by customizing Django codebase
- Enabled clients to organize automatically managed online events with Zoom, by integrating Zoom with OAuth in Django
- Allowed users to validate authenticity of 2nd hand tickets, by implementing TicketSwap REST APIs using DRF
- Processed tens of millions in payment transactions, by building payment service integrations (Mollie, Pay.nl, Paypal)
- Facilitated market expansion to eurozone, by implementing Django i18n features (language, country & timezone)

### Tender-it | Amsterdam, NL | Lead Developer | 06/2014 - 06/2015

- Delivered complete platform with Python, Django & React in consultation with non-technical founders
- Transformed thousands of tenders daily into structured data, by making web crawlers & importers with Django & Celery
- Developed industry-first Elasticsearch-powered search engine for filtering & scoring hundreds of thousands of tenders
- Enabled market entry via subscription system with monthly/yearly recurring payments, using Django, Celery & Adyen
- Supported user retention by developing automatic notification mailing system for user preferences & saved searches

### TravelBird | Amsterdam, NL | Senior Full-Stack Developer | 03/2013 - 08/2014

- Shipped iPhone & Android booking apps in scrum team (4) within 5 months, handling 15%+ of bookings in 3 months
- Designed REST API with JWT auth using DRF, deployed on AWS, accommodating iOS & Android apps and mobile website
- Supported acquisition by sending thousands of emails with marketing system using Python, Django, Celery & SendGrid

## SKILLS

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- **Backend:** Python | Django | Django REST Framework (DRF) | Flask | FastAPI | RESTful APIs | LLM integrations | pytest
- **Frontend:** JavaScript | Node.js | TypeScript | React Native | React | Svelte | Tailwind CSS | Jest
- **Databases:** PostgreSQL | MySQL | MariaDB | SQLite | SQL optimization | Elasticsearch | MongoDB | Redis
- **Development Tools:** Git | GitHub | Git Flow | Claude Code | Cursor | Neovim | tmux
- **DevOps:** Docker | Docker Compose | GitLab CI/CD | GitHub Actions | Ansible | Python Fabric | Caching strategies
- **Cloud Platforms:** Amazon Web Services | AWS EC2 | AWS S3 | AWS Lambda | Vercel | Linode
- **Dev Methodologies:** Agile | Scrum | XP | AI-Assisted Development | Secure by design | TDD | UXD

## SIDE PROJECTS

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### Django Admin Relation Links | 01/2014 - 12/2020

<https://github.com/gitaarik/django-admin-relation-links>

Django Admin navigation enhancement, simplifying navigation between related database objects. Open-sourced on GitHub and PyPi. Used in production at Chipta & Tender-it.

### Git Submodules Guide | 01/2014 - 01/2014

<https://gist.github.com/gitaarik/8735255>

Popular GitHub Gist explaining Git submodules fundamentals. Helped many developers understand submodules effectively.

### Jazzchords | 06/2013 - 12/2017

<https://github.com/gitaarik/jazzchords>

Web application for creating and printing professional chord charts using Python/Django and modern frontend technologies.

### Adyengo | 08/2013 - 05/2020

<https://github.com/gitaarik/adyengo>

Open-source Django package for Adyen payment integration with recurring payment support. Used in production at Tender-it.

### Monkful | 09/2013 - 10/2014

<https://github.com/gitaarik/monkful>

Python package to easily create RESTful API's for MongoEngine documents used for MongoDB database. Inspired by Django REST framework. Used in production at Travelbird.

## EDUCATION

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### Software Development, Dutch Vocational Education (MBO) | Nova College, Hoofddorp, NL

Comprehensive 4-year program including foundational computer science, algorithms, and data structures.

## LANGUAGES

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Dutch: Native

English: Fluent