

Rik Wanders

Senior Full-Stack Developer

Building scalable web applications for remote teams

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SUMMARY

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

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

- **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

Smart Job Seeker | 08/2025 - Present

<https://github.com/gitaarik/smart-job-seeker>

An intelligent job search and application management platform that helps you create a detailed profile, discover matching opportunities, and optimize your job application process with AI assistance. Built with TypeScript, Sveltekit, Prisma ORM, Directus CMS, PostgreSQL, Docker Compose and Tailwind CSS.

LitState | 11/2020 - 01/2023

<https://github.com/gitaarik/lit-state>

Reactive state management library for Lit Web Components, open-sourced on GitHub & NPM. Used in production at Chipta (ticket shop). Lit + LitState is a simpler, lightweight and browser-native alternative to React + Redux.

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

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

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

LANGUAGES

Dutch: Native

English: Fluent