

Rik Wanders

Senior Full-Stack Developer

Building scalable web applications for remote teams

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

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)

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

SWIS | Leiden, NL | Mid-level Web Developer | 08/2011 - 02/2013

- Delivered web projects for major clients (Bol.com) as part of company's best of 5 Scrum teams using custom PHP CMS
- Cultivated advanced frontend & UX skills with jQuery & CSS3, increasing user product engagement & client satisfaction

Gamepoint | The Hague, NL | Junior / Mid-level Web Developer | 08/2007 - 06/2011

- Implemented payment integrations, internationalization, and optimized MySQL database structures & queries
- Promoted to mid-level developer in 10+ developer team, maintaining large-scale PHP codebase & Linux servers setup

Budget Advies Groep | Cruquius, NL | Junior Web developer | 09/2006 - 06/2007

Festivalinfo | Amsterdam, NL | Internship Web Developer | 03/2006 - 08/2006

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

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.

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), Graduation Year 2007 | Nova College, Hoofddorp, NL

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

Audio technician, Dutch Vocational Education (MBO), 08/2003 - 06/2004 | Mediacollege Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL

I liked many aspects of the field (music & tech), but ultimately decided that it wasn't something I wanted to pursue in.

Pre-vocational education, Dutch VMBO-t education, Graduation Year 2003 | Kaj Munk College, Hoofddorp, NL

Educated in topics like maths, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, economy, history, social studies, Dutch & English.

Primary education, Dutch primary education, Graduation Year 1999 | Valkenburgschool, Heemstede, NL

Educated in core subjects like Dutch, maths, science, history, geography, gym & creative activities (art, music).

LANGUAGES

Dutch: Native

English: Fluent

REFERENCES

Elmar Krack

"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."

Michaël de Groot

"Rik modernized our client-facing interfaces and implemented backend optimizations that delivered substantial performance improvements. His work enabled us to process thousands of tickets rapidly during our busiest periods."

Contact details available upon request