



Rik Wanders

Senior Full Stack Developer

Profile



 Ronda, Spain

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 Fluent English, Native Dutch

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Summary



Dutch Senior Full Stack Developer, currently residing in Spain. Specialized in Python & Node.js ecosystems, with a wide background in full stack engineering, designing complex and high-traffic applications. Through past leadership roles developed strong skills for product responsibility, project management and team leadership.

I'm currently looking for an exciting and challenging remote freelance project or full-time role, where I can apply my expertise and creativity. I thrive in dynamic agile teams or startup environments that realize innovative ideas into real world products.

Key Qualifications



-  **18+ years of full stack development experience.**
-  Expertise in modern **Python, JavaScript & Node.js** ecosystems.
-  Additional experience in **Linux, DevOps & CI/CD**.
-  **Team leadership** and **project management** experience.
-  Skilled in **AI-accelerated development**, with business security in mind.
-  **5+ years remote work** and distributed team collaboration experience.
-  Proven track record scaling **high-traffic applications**.

Expert Knowledge  Python

Django, REST Framework, Celery, Channels, Silk

 JavaScript / Node.js

React, Svelte, Web Components

 SQL DatabasesPostgreSQL, MySQL/MariaDB, SQLite
Schema design, indexing, optimization Web Technologies

HTML5, CSS3 (Tailwind), REST APIs

 Web Protocols

HTTP/HTTPS, DNS, TLS/SSL, SSH, FTP/SFTP

 Shell Scripting / CLI Toolsbash, advanced CLI tools
(find, grep, vim, sed, awk, curl, rsync) Git (GitHub, GitLab)

GitHub, GitLab, advanced workflows, submodules

 AI / LLM development tools

Claude Code, Cursor

Working Knowledge  Linux & DevOpsSystem administration, CI/CD, Docker (Compose),
Ansible, Nginx, Apache Cloud Platforms

Vercel, Linode, Amazon Web Services (AWS)

 JavaScript / Node.js

TypeScript, React Native, Vue.js

 NoSQL Databases

Elasticsearch, Redis, MongoDB

 Caching & Load Balancing

Varnish, Memcached, HAProxy

 Additional Languages

Lua, C, Objective-C, PHP



Personality Traits

Responsible

Independent

Disciplined

Organized

Proactive

Creative

Problem solving

Result-oriented

Determined

Development Methodologies

Agile

Scrum

Kanban

Extreme Programming (XP)

AI-accelerated development

Secure by design

Test-driven development (TDD)

User experience design (UXD)

Component-based development






Extensive code reviewing

Writing and maintaining documentation

Pair-programming



Chipta

 Lead Developer  September 2014 – June 2024
 Ticketing Service  Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 chipta.com/



Joined this innovative ticketing startup as Lead Developer, scaling the platform from concept to processing thousands of tickets per minute during peak events. Successfully led technical development through 10 years of growth, making Chipta a competitive alternative for independent event organizers.

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

Impact:

Transformed a proof of concept into a robust, scalable ticketing platform serving thousands of events and processing high-volume traffic reliably.

Technologies Used:

Python

Django

Django REST Framework

Django Channels

Django Debug Toolbar

Django Silk

Jinja2

Weasyprint

MySQL

Ansible

Python Fabric

Linode

Nginx

Redis

Selenium

OAuth

Node.js

React

MobX

Lit

Web Components

Web Sockets

Webpack

React Native

Tender-it

👤 Lead Developer

📅 March 2015 – June 2022

🏢 Tender Discovery Platform 📍 Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Built a comprehensive tender discovery platform from scratch, enabling companies to efficiently find and track public procurement opportunities. Delivered a complete solution that automated manual tender search processes for businesses.

Note: This was a part-time engagement that I combined with my main focus on Chipta.

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

Impact:

Transformed a startup idea into a complete, extensible tender platform with a intuitive interface and solid administrative tools.

Technologies Used:

Python

Django

Django REST Framework

Django Celery

Python Requests

MySQL

Beautifulsoup

Elasticsearch

Linode

Nginx

Node.js

React

Vue.js

Webpack

TravelBird

👤 Senior Full Stack & iOS Developer 📅 March 2013 – August 2014
🏠 Online Travel Agent 📍 Amsterdam, The Netherlands
🌐 travelbird.com/



Joined during rapid growth phase (50 to 250+ employees) and contributed to scaling mobile presence during the company's expansion across European markets.

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

Impact:

Successfully delivered mobile apps and mobile website as part of an agile team during a critical period when mobile app presence was becoming essential for travel industry competitiveness.

Technologies Used:

Objective-C

Xcode

Python

Django

Django REST Framework

Django Celery

Django South

Django Compressor

Sendgrid

PostgreSQL

Linode

Nginx

JavaScript

gulp.js

Sass

Delivered web solutions for high-profile clients including major e-commerce and government organizations, working as part of a dedicated Scrum team in a fast-paced agency environment with diverse project requirements.

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






Impact:

Delivered high-quality web solutions that met diverse client needs while maintaining agency's reputation for quality and reliability.

Technologies Used:



Gamepoint

 Junior / Mid-level Web Developer  June 2007 – June 2011
 Casual Gaming / Community  The Hague, The Netherlands
 gamepoint.biz/



Started career at established gaming community platform, progressing from junior to mid-level developer while contributing to platform stability and feature development.

Key Achievements:

\$ Payment Systems

Successfully implemented multiple payment integrations that supported platform monetization and user transactions

🌐 International Expansion

Contributed to internationalization and localization efforts 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

Impact:

Supported stable operation and feature enhancement of established gaming community serving hundreds of thousands of active users.

Technologies Used:

PHP

MySQL

nginx

HTML

CSS

JavaScript

jQuery

AJAX

YUI Library

References



To confirm my experience with full stack development in dynamic, agile and startup environments, my most recent employers are willing to provide references by telephone. Feel free to ask me for their contact details.

Michaël de Groot

Founder of Chipta

Former employer - willing to provide references by telephone



Elmar Krack

Co-founder of Tender-it

Former employer - willing to provide references by telephone

