



# Michel de Graaf

## Tech lead / Software Engineer

**About me:** Systems-oriented tech-lead/software engineer specializing in back-end, architecture, and infrastructure, combining deep technical expertise with technical leadership, mentoring and strategic decision-making. I'm a highly technical software engineer with over 22 years of experience delivering complex software systems. I specialize in architecting and building new products from concept to production (MVP), modernizing existing projects with cloud AI and leading engineering teams in fast-paced start-up environments to deliver scalable, high-impact solutions.

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- Architecting and developing advanced (mobile) web applications and web services (REST, GraphQL, gRPC, tRPC)
- Integrating diverse software systems and managing data flows (REST, SOAP, GraphQL, enterprise patterns)
- Scaling and deploying applications in the cloud (AWS, ECS, Docker, Elastic Beanstalk, Kubernetes, Azure, Terraform)
- Building professional software engineering pipelines (DevOps, Continuous Integration Delivery)
- Strong knowledge of computer security, including fuzzing, penetration testing, and Linux systems

My approach to software craftsmanship is test-driven (TDD), pragmatic, and agile, always using the best tool for the job. I favor Scrum/Agile-driven projects and have experience managing projects using these methodologies.

## Experience

### 2004 - Current, Re-invention (Founder)

My consultancy company: specialized in advanced (web-based) software solutions

### 2024 - Current, Revive Capital B.V & Financial lease - Tech lead (freelance)

Leading the technological development for Revive Capital, a fintech asset leasing company startup, to forge a cutting-edge asset-backed lending platform for brokers. Tech used: TypeScript, TDD, OpenAPI, OpenAI, Basikon, Salesforce, Apex, textract, OCR, Docker, Serverless, Docker, Terraform, CI&CD, GITOPS.

### 2023 - 2024, Financial lease - Fullstack Software Engineer (Freelance)

Developing dealer portal for Financial Lease & constulting. Tech used: Type- script, GraphQL, tRPC, MUI, React, AWS, NodeJS, NextJS, Serverless, Terraform, Continuous integration, Continuous delivery, Salesforce/Apex.

### 2022 - 2023, IKEA - Tech Lead (Freelance)

Developing & leading the technical implementation of the IKEA Content Coworker Experience program with the goal of helping coworkers in sales with finding their way to information so they can do their job better by utilizing knowledge graph technology. Tech used: Neo4J, Typescript, GraphQL, Apollo, React, Azure, NodeJS, Continuous integration, Continuous delivery.

### 2022 - Current, hypothekrente.nl - Software engineer (Freelancer)

Developing a lead processing system for mortgage advisors. Tech used: Ruby on Rails, Typescript, Apollo, GraphQL, Docker, CI/CD/GITOPS, k8s.

**2019 - 2022, ING / Homerun / Homigo - CTO (Freelancer)**

Homerun is a corporate startup backed by ING Neo. Its core product is a SaaS productivity tool (mobile/web) for contractors/homeowners to manage home renovations. This makes for an exciting and technically challenging feature set of advanced real-time chat, dropbox-like filesharing, resource/activity planning, and other domain-specific features. Tech used: Ruby on Rails, TypeScript, React(native), Apollo, GraphQL, Docker, Continuous integration, Continuous delivery.

**2016 - 2019, BEEQUIP - Fullstack software engineer (Freelancer)**

Developing BEEQUIP's (startup, fintech) online leasing platform from the ground up. Designed and implemented an information system (BEEHIVE) where we managed to capture the business processes and automated many of them. This system exposed a GraphQL API used by BEEQUIP's broker portal and customer portal. My best work to date as this was mainly a solo effort for 2 years. In 2018 this system processed 240 million leases in production. Tech used: Ruby on Rails, Python, TypeScript, Javascript, node.js, React, Apollo, Salesforce, Dynamics NAV, GraphQL, Docker, AWS, Continuous integration, Continuous delivery.

**2015 - 2018, Backpackapp - CTO**

Building a Travel agency platform for backpackers on the go, the challenge here lies in automated document classification and recognition. Tech used: Elixir, React native, Javascript (ES6)

**2015 - 2016, Tele2 - Software Engineer (Freelancer)**

Maintaining a software system used to commission and provision (4g) network devices. Developed consistency checking tool to audit network device configurations. Advance overall software quality by improving tests/software engineering practices. Tech used: Ruby, Rails, EventMachine, RabbitMQ, Backbone.js, MongoDB, Redis, Javascript, Docker.

**2014 - 2016, Postinitial - CTO**

Building an e-learning platform for Corporate Finance. Tech used: Ruby, Javascript, Rails, React.js, Flux, Docker

**2008 - 2015, Kabisa, Software Engineer / lead / Devops / Consultant**

Kabisa is specialised in developing elegant (enterprise) software solutions using technologies such as Ruby(on Rails) and Java. I have been with Kabisa since the start and have grown in to several roles such as scrum master, DevOps, lead developer, consultant, and software architect on a wide range of exciting projects for customers such as Philips, ViaViela B.V., Media Groep Limburg, Seacon Logistics and Yellobrick.

**2007 - 2008, Philips**

Internship where I developed an internet-connected television prototype where users can share photo?s and play games over the internet.

## Education

**2008 - 2009, University of Amsterdam Master (MSc), Software engineering**  
For my master's thesis, I researched Intelligent fuzzing of web applications.

**2005 - 2008, Avans Hogeschool s-Hertogenbosch**

- Graduated cum laude
- Graduation internship at the Philips Innovation Lab worked on the European-funded Amigo project (<http://www.hitech-projects.com/euprojects/amigo/>)

## Skills

### Languages

- Dutch (mother tongue)
- English (fluent)
- German (basic)

### Programming Languages

- |   |          |                       |
|---|----------|-----------------------|
| ◦ Ruby                                  | ◦ Rust   | ◦ CSS                 |
| ◦ Javascript / Typescript / Flow / Node | ◦ Python | ◦ (X)HTML             |
| ◦ C/C++                                 | ◦ Elixir | ◦ SQL / Cypher / SOQL |
| ◦ Java                                  | ◦ Golang | ◦ LaTex               |
|   | ◦ Elm    | ◦ Lua                 |

### Experience with frameworks/libraries

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|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ◦ Ruby on Rails          | ◦ Next.js / Express.js |
| ◦ Sinatra                | ◦ Apache Camel         |
| ◦ Rhomobile              | ◦ Chef & Terraform     |
| ◦ Backbone.js            | ◦ Metasploit           |
| ◦ React / Redux / Apollo | ◦ Jupyter notebook     |

### Software/Services

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ◦ Linux (Debian/Ubuntu/Gentoo) | ◦ Github actions                  |
| ◦ Git / Subversion             | ◦ Gitlab & Gitlab CI & Jenkins CI |
| ◦ Mac OSX                      | ◦ PostgreSQL / MySQL              |
| ◦ Adobe Photoshop              | ◦ MongoDB                         |
| ◦ Adobe Illustrator            | ◦ Neo4J                           |
| ◦ Amazon EC2                   | ◦ Salesforce                      |
| ◦ Kubernetes                   | ◦ RabbitMQ                        |
| ◦ Docker                       |                                   |

## Additional Honors & Awards & Certificates

- Graduated cum laude for bachelor degree computer science
- Professional Scrum Master certificate (Scrum.org)
- Coursera: Neural Networks and Deep Learning
- Placed first at the RubyenRails 2009 rumble (<http://2009.rubyenrails.nl/>)