

Summary

Entrepreneurial geek with roots in the open source movement. Passionately enabling software-related teams to deliver. Creates/structures/improves processes. Architects and helps to implement future-proof solutions. Coaches both individuals and groups.

At the age of seven (1989) Cies wrote his first lines of code in a LOGO-like language on an MSX (pre-PC). Two years later he attended a conference on an emerging new technology, the Internet, at the Erasmus University from which he would graduate 16 years later (2000) with a degree in Business Computer Science.

After being introduced to the open source movement in 1997, he taught himself a variety of skills including system administration and programming (Bash, Python, Ruby & C++). By 2002 he got his pet project KTurtle—a zero-entry-barrier programming environment—included in KDE's *edu* module, and thereby in almost every Linux distribution.

Extensively travelled Europe and Asia after graduating. On return his professional life became a mix of hands-on work in startups and web software agencies, while settling as a husband and father in personal life.

Experience

[CIES.BREIJS.COM](https://cies.breijs.com)

Freelance IT Consultant

Provides services related to software development, such as: coaching, audits, process improvement, web/cloud architecture, recruitment strategy and tender advise. Clients: [Burst](#), [Hoppiner](#) & [Bit4U](#).

ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Oct '16 – present

Hoppinger

Head of Technology

Hoppinger is an open source minded *full-service* internet agency. In charge of the dev't capacity, reporting directly to managing director and co-founder Marijn Bom. Drafted and carried out the technical company vision. Inspired both devs and management to look beyond PHP. Grew custom app dev't into a serious revenue segment. Implemented continuous delivery. Created and taught several in-house courses. Enacted testing strategy. Recruited viciously, in part by organizing educational events. Restructured to fixed team configurations. Introduced DevOps (Puppet). Helped to set up the *Customer Support* and *IT ops* dep'ts. Contributed to the sales pitches for, and in charge of the software architecture for, all technically challenging projects. Involved with many company-wide process improvements.

ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Apr '12 – Oct '16

Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences

Member of the Professional Advisory Board (till Sep '16) & Guest Lecturer

ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Sep '12 – present

Intellicap/ISTPL

IT Consultant

Intellicap is a financial advisory firm serving corporates, non-profits and governments working in developing markets. Assessed their software development team and processes. Trained their devs. Architected and built several web apps; one being Mostfit an open source MIS for [microcredit](#) lenders.

MUMBAI, PUNE & HYDERABAD, INDIA

Nov '08 – Feb '09

IT & Strategy Consultant

Called in to solve several technical challenges and develop growth strategies regarding Mostfit.

Jan '10 – Aug '11

CTO

Proudly joined the C-family of Intellicap's software division, ISTPL, to make [Mostfit](#) the nr.1 software solution for micro credit lenders around the globe. Shut down in six months due to lack of investment.

Oct '11 – Feb '12

Zarafa

QA & Release Manager

Before 2015, when Zarafa entered in an extensive partnership with Amazon, it was probably the fastest growing open source product company in Europe, making a drop-in replacement for MS Exchange. Reported directly to the CEO, Brian Josef, and worked closely with the CTO, Steve Hardy. In charge of the 6 men strong QA dep't. Established test automation and continuous integration. Architected and implemented an all-integrated documentation and translation system that employed community effort. Got sent to India to analyse and streamline their outsourced operations.

DELFT, THE NETHERLANDS

Dec '09 – Jan '11

Dharma Publishing

IT Consultant

Dharma Publishing, the worlds largest Buddhist publisher, is a non-profit, all-volunteer organisation to preserve Tibetan buddhism and culture. Built their web shop, improved related processes.

NEAR SAN FRANCISCO, USA

Nov '09 – Dec '09

KDE

Software Engineer

KTurtle is an educational programming environment that simplifies learning the basics of programming. KTurtle is intended as a gift to future generations: a simple environment to get started with programming. In 2003 KTurtle got admitted to the KDE project.

edu.kde.org/kturtle

Dec '03 – present

Truetopia Project

Initiator & Lead Developer

The Truetopia Project is an open source web application (Rails) to facilitate self-governing communities. It provides a workflow for collaborative problem identification and solution design.

truetopiaproject.org

Nov '07 – Apr '10

Dhurakij Pundit University International College

Guest Lecturer

Invited by Dr. Pilun Piyasirivej and Mr. Michel Bauwens to deliver several guest lectures.

BANGKOK, THAILAND

Sep '09

Opendream

Freelance IT Consultant

Architected and largely implemented an open source media sharing web service (REST API) that facilitates video uploads, transcoding and streaming. Coached their development team on system design, Ruby web development and software engineering methodologies (Scrum/TDD/BDD).

BANGKOK, THAILAND

Aug '09 – Sep '09

Commuun

Senior Visionary

Set up the technical infrastructure, defined the business cases, created the brand and built several Rails-based web applications with Peter Duijnste, my close friend and proprietor of Commuun.

ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Jul '06 – Sep '09

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Guest Lecturer

Spoke on the phenomenon of open source on request of Prof. Michiel van Wezel.

ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Jul '06 – Jul '09

The Health Agency (now MindDistrict)

Software Engineer

Worked on their CMS (written in Python and uses PostgreSQL, XML/XSLT and Twisted).

DELFT & ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Jun '05 – Feb '06

Software Auditor

Assessed their Python/Zope/ZoDB-based product re-engineering effort.

Dec '06

Please refer to Cies' LinkedIn profile for a more complete list of work experience along with recommendations.

Education

Erasmus University Rotterdam

BSc in Business Computer Science (CS & Economics)

Main projects on the economics of open source and the semantic web (RDF/RDFS, OWL & SPARQL).

ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

2004 – 2007

Technical University Delft

Industrial Design Engineering (discontinued)

DELFT, THE NETHERLANDS

2001 – 2002

Libanon Lyceum

VWO (Pre-University Secondary Education)

ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

1994 – 2000

Skills

Technical expertise: Leading and recruiting teams of software engineers. Big fan of Agile methodologies, continuous delivery and functional programming. Enjoys writing Ruby/Python/Java/C++ and Haskell. Solid knowledge of the full web technology stack. Able to architect *and* implement distributed/HA systems. Strong Linux administration skills (e.g. Bash scripting, Apache/NGINX, Postgres/My/NoSQL, Elasticsearch). Well experienced with virtualization/containerization (Docker/Kubernetes, KVM, Xen and several AWS solutions) and DevOps (Puppet). Emacs user.

Natural languages: Dutch (*mother tongue*), English (*full professional proficiency*), German (*limited working proficiency*), French (*elementary proficiency*) and Mandarin Chinese (*beginner*).

Interests

Non-exhaustive and in alphabetical order: art, Buddhism, cryptography, functional programming, Go (board game), history, music (from classical and jazz to Berlin-techno), NLP, permaculture, philosophy, rock climbing, startups, travel, typography (e.g. graphic design, \LaTeX), UX-design and vegan cuisine.