
Hire Me

Øyvind Gerrard Skaar



Hi, I'm Øyvind. I'm a freelance developer and IT consultant based in Oslo, Norway.

I am currently fully booked. See [Section 4](#) for the details.

1 What I can help you with

Are you working on building something new? Or maybe improving your existing back-end system? Is it slow? Or simply more costly than it needs to be?

Do you lose customers and revenue because don't have enough programmers?

My specialty is back-end, server-side technology and architecture. I help build scalable and fast cloud-based systems.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you are unsure of what kind of developer you need for your project. If I can't help you myself I can at least steer you in the right direction. I've also gotten to know many other freelancers, independent consultants and designers. [Just give me a call or fill out this form.](#)

For examples of what I've done my clients in the past, see [past clients and projects](#).

2 How I prefer to work

I strongly prefer simplicity and strive for it whenever possible.

2.1 Technology

My current language of choice is [Go \(golang\)](#) and I build systems on the [Google Cloud Platform](#).

To be honest, I do not think choosing the "right" technology is very important. Usually, there are many that will do the trick and there are many ways to get the job done. There are, of course, exceptions. But for most projects choosing one technology over another does not give any great advantages.

It is much more important to know your tools and their strengths and weaknesses. That's what I'm achieving by sticking with a few selected technologies. So while it's fun to learn new things and tempting to jump on the latest fashions, it can be harmful to productivity and the goals of the business¹. I try to counteract this by trying new things on my own time.

Other, important are things, are:

- Finding the right balance between simplicity and sophistication in your architectures
- Understanding the larger picture. What are we making and why?
- Understanding the priorities of the business. Is 99.99% uptime critical? Time-to-market? Or maybe giving yourselves many chances of succeeding by saving money and taking sane shortcuts.

¹The customer does not care what programming language you use or if you're running Istio or not. They *might* care how often you deploy

Having said that, there are reasons I choose to work with Go and the Google Cloud Platform. I like Go, both the simplicity of the language and the culture of pragmatism. It's a language very well suited for building back-end servers. Google Cloud Platform also has its strengths. I've always been a fan of their first platform-as-a-service, App Engine. They also seem to have a even stronger focus on pay-for-what-you-use than other cloud providers.

I have experience with many different technologies and programming languages. Especially on the back-end. And, of course, I also know "adjacent" tools used by modern cloud-native deployments, such as: [Docker](#), [Kubernetes](#), [Git](#) and CI/CD systems. I've worked with several databases and datastores, mainly the Google Cloud native ones: [Datastore / Firestore](#), [Storage](#) and [Cloud SQL](#). Outside of GCP I've used [MySQL / MariaDB](#) extensively, [PostgreSQL](#), [Redis](#) and [SQLite](#). Lately I've taken an interest in graph databases, especially [Dgraph](#).

Other past experience includes: [several cloud providers](#) and languages such as [Python \(w/ Django\)](#), [Perl 5 \(w/ Mojolicious\)](#), [PHP](#) and [Ruby \(w/ Rails\)](#), as well as databases etc.

3 Background

After finishing my MSc in Informatics in 2010 I worked as a back-end developer, and "devops" guy for almost 4 years before I started my own company in 2014. Since then I've taken contract work and worked on 10 projects for 7 different clients. Some of these have been multi-year, full time contracts while others have been advisory roles or short-time projects.

For examples of what I've done my clients in the past, see [past clients and projects](#).

- [LinkedIn](#)
- [CV in English, with project descriptions \(PDF\)](#)
- [CV in Norwegian, summary \(PDF\)](#)

4 Availability in 2023

I will be available for new work in March.

I'm starting the year with a vacation :) Followed by a month or so to learn everything I need to get control of the company finances and do the taxes. Then I'm taking a step back to look at the strategy for the next few years.

January 2023:	Vacation, mostly
February 2023:	Company finances, taxes and the like. Strategy.
March 2023:	No commitments yet =)
April 2023:	No commitments yet =)

(last updated: 6th of February 2023)

5 Contact me

If you think I can help you, or you have any questions, please reach out.

You can email me at hello@oyvindsk.com or use <https://oyvindsk.com/contact>
