

# Stefane Fermigier

ABILIAN SAS - 172, BD DU MONT-PARNASSE, 75014 PARIS, FRANCE

Tel: +33 6 63 04 12 77 | MEL: [SF@FERMIGIER.COM](mailto:SF@FERMIGIER.COM) | WEB: [WWW.FERMIGIER.COM](http://WWW.FERMIGIER.COM)

## Profile

**Entrepreneur** in the **software** sector, expert in **open source**, both in its **technical** aspects and in the **definition** and **execution** of **business models** that take advantage of its specificities.

## Professional Experience

### Since 2012: Founder and President, **Abilian** SAS

Innovative company, publisher of an open source platform for the development of *Enterprise 2.0* type applications (corporate social networks, emerging collaboration, online communities, *work-flow...*).

- Architecture and development of the key parts of the company's software.
- Research and development: open source *data lake* project "Wendelin" (2015-2019), funded by the DSF; PSPC-Regions project "Cython+" (2020-2022); project "Hyper-Open X" (2022-2025).

### 2009-2011: Executive Chairman of the Supervisory Board, **Nuxeo** SA

Nuxeo is the pioneer and one of the two leaders in open source enterprise document management (ECM).

- Responsible for the control and remuneration of the operational management.
- Also responsible for innovation and its financing: setting up, scientific and administrative supervision of 7 collaborative R&D projects (Eureka!, FP6, FP7, FUI (x3), FEDER, FSN) for an overall effort of more than 4 M€.
- Technical evangelisation and liaison with open source communities: OW2, Apache Foundation, Eclipse Foundation - and industrial technology partners.
- The company was sold to private equity funds for 30 M€ in 2016.

### 2001-2008: Founder and CEO, **Nuxeo** (SARL then SAS)

Starting from scratch in 2001, Nuxeo had a turnover of 3 ME in 2008 with about 50 employees.

- Definition and evolution of the technological and functional vision and business model. Strategy and positioning of the offer.
- Recruitment of all categories of staff, coaching of newcomers.
- Selling the offer to *early adopters*. Recruitment of partners (systems integrators like Capgemini, Unilog, Business & Décision, etc.).
- Online marketing (*lead generation*, *lead nurturing*) and offline marketing (trade shows, events). Press and analyst relations. Evangelisation of open source communities.
- Implementation of productive and reliable development processes (agile methods: *extreme programming*, TDD, Scrum, Kanban) and, more generally, of all the company's key processes.
- Finance: definition of the business plan, anticipation and monitoring of cash flow, obtaining financing (R&D tax breaks, subsidies, repayable advances, fundraising from *business angels* and VCs) adapted to the different stages of the company's development.
- Creation of subsidiaries abroad (Romania, Senegal, UK).

**1992-2000:** Lecturer, then Associate Professor (Maître de Conférences), **Université Paris Diderot**

- Research in algorithmic number theory (9 scientific publications).
- Teacher in 1st and 2nd cycle (undergraduate and masters): introduction to programming, discrete mathematics, formal calculation, number theory.

## Other experiences

**2022:** Lecturer at **EPITA** (École pour l'informatique et les techniques avancées). Responsible for the "Open Source Software" minor for 5th year students (36 hours of classes).

**Since 2022:** co-founder of Euclidia. Member of the Alliance for Industrial Cloud, Edge and IoT.

**Since 2020:** co-founder of **APELL**, European Professional Association for Free Software (a European federation of national professional associations).

**Since 2015:** business angel - private investment in several digital start-ups.

**Since 2010:** co-founder, member of the Board of Directors and then co-president of the **CNLL**, union of free software and open digital companies.

**2006-2019:** co-founder, member of the steering committee and then president of the **Open Source Software Thematic Group** (GTLL) of the Systematic Paris Region competitiveness cluster.

- Recruitment of most of the Open Source actors in Ile-de-France to the WG (100+ members).
- Support for the emergence of projects and appraisal of files that have led to the financing of more than 30 collaborative R&D projects, for an overall effort of more than 100 ME.
- At the origin of the launch, within the Systematic cluster, of the thematic group devoted to business information systems.
- Author of a study on Big Data and another on Artificial Intelligence within the cluster.

**Since 1998:** lecturer and occasional lecturer on free software (introduction, ecosystems, legal and economic models, etc.), open innovation, web technologies, content management, social networks, technological entrepreneurship, etc.

**2014-2018:** founder and organiser of the **PyData Paris** conference, which later became **PyParis**, dedicated to the Python language and its applications.

**Since 2010:** co-organiser of the **Open World Forum** (which became the **Paris Open Source Summit** in 2015), an international conference dedicated to open source and open ecosystems that takes place every year in Paris.

**Since 2010:** member of the scientific council of **EPITA** (School for Computer Science and Advanced Techniques).

**1998-2003:** co-founder and president of **AFUL**, French-speaking association of Linux and free software users.

- Creation of the association, evangelisation of free software to the general public, companies and particularly public authorities, via MTIC, ATICA and ADAE, thus contributing to the fact that France has been one of the countries in the world where open source has developed best since the beginning of the 2000s.

## Training

**2001-2002:** Training for new entrepreneurs at *HEC Executive Education*.

**1991-1995:** PhD in mathematics at the Paris Diderot University (Paris 7).

**1988-1992:** Student at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris (rue d'Ulm). Agrégé of mathematics.

## Technical skills

### IT:

- Functional and practical knowledge of the main categories of enterprise application software: content management (EDM, WCM, ECM), collaborative (intranets, corporate social networks), CRM / XRM, Workflow, Data Analytics.
- Programming: object and functional.
- Architectures: component-based, service-oriented, event-driven.
- Main languages: Python, JavaScript, Java, C, C++, Shell. Notions of Clojure, OCaml, Ruby.
- Web and networks: HTTP, REST architectures, XMPP, OMQ, HTML5.
- Persistence: relational databases (PostgreSQL, SQLite, MySQL) and NoSQL (MongoDB, Redis).
- Project management: XP, Scrum, Kanban, Lean.
- Devops: source managers (Git, Mercurial), software forges, continuous integration (Buildbot, Jenkins, Travis,...), software quality control tools.
- Cloud: experience of the main IaaS and PaaS of the market (AWS, Heroku, OVH, Scaleway...).
- OS: Linux and Mac OS.
- Very broad knowledge of the main open source products and technologies on the market.
- Contributor to several open source projects.
- Miscellaneous: web ergonomics / UX, typography, *machine learning*, semantic web.

**Languages:** French (mother tongue), English (daily practice of business and technical English), basic Italian and German.

## Scientific publications (h-index = 9, 235 citations)

In **IT**: 4 scientific articles published between 1999 and 2010.

In **mathematics**: 9 scientific publications between 1991 and 1999. (+ 3 preparatory books for the agrégation in mathematics in analysis written between 1991 and 1994.)

## Other publications

I have written or conducted a dozen reports, studies, manifestos, expression of interest, etc. on the free / open source software sector in France and Europe.

I have given more than 100 talks at conferences around the world on F/OSS and digital sovereignty since 1998.

I'm currently working on several books or booklets:

- *An Almanac of Cloud Patterns*. <https://github.com/abilian/books/blob/main/cloud-patterns/>
- *Vers la souveraineté numérique: le pari des logiciels libres*, to be published in 2024. <https://souverainete.net/>
- *Introduction à Nix et NixOS*. <https://github.com/abilian/books/blob/main/nixos/>
- *uWSGI Essentials: Configuration, Optimization, and Best Practices*, <https://github.com/abilian/books/tree/main/uwsgi>