A person wearing glasses and looking at the camera

Description automatically generatedContent engineering, XML processing and technical documentation are the fields I specialize in. My company [Xatapult](http://www.xatapult.com) supports companies that either lack the knowledge or the capacity in these fields of expertise.

I have a technical IT background. After 20 years working for sev­eral large and small companies, in jobs ranging from pro­grammer to architect, I started my own con­sulting company in 2001. Starting 2009, I specialized in con­tent engineering and XML.

I am deliberately looking for projects on all levels: from consulting to application development. Actual experience is important in giving advice.

My ability to explain things, either by providing training or writing technical documentation, is an important non-technical skill. I am the author of two XML technology related books.

For more detailed information see my [LinkedIn profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/esiegel/).

# Expertise Overview

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| --- | --- |
| Consulting | Using content is not always straightforward. Which standard(s) to use? What is the optimal granularity for the content? Do I need a CMS to store and retrieve it? How do we combine structured (XML) with non-structured (images, sound, video) data? I help customers in making the right decisions. |
| Content Design | Sometimes content follows a well-known standard, but often formats need to be tuned or custom designed. I specify, formalize, and document these design decisions. |
| Standardization | Content standards (also known as vocabularies) play an important role in modern business. I was lead architect in several standardization projects and am one of the editors of the XProc 3.0 specification. |
| Developing applications | Writing actual working code plays an important role in understanding what you are working with and the consequences of design decisions. I specialize in XML related languages such as XSLT, XQuery and XProc. |
| Training | I provide training on XML related subjects, both in-house and public. |
| Technical Documentation | I like to write technical documentation and published two books and several articles. Whenever possible I combine this with my content engineering skills, for instance in using standards, generating parts, and providing consistent layout. |

# Main customer overview

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| --- | --- | --- |
| John Benjamins Publishing Company | 2017 - | John Benjamins Publishing Company is a scientific publisher specialized in languages and linguistics. They have an XML First workflow for their journals and other publications based on the eXist‑db platform.  I support them by developing applications, coaching, and training. |
| Spiraltrain | 2018 - | Spiraltrain is a company providing technical developer training.  I provide XML related training for them on topics such as XML basics, XSLT and Schemas. |
| Nictiz | 2018 | Nictiz is the Dutch expertise center for e-Health.  I helped them with one of their eXist-db based systems. |
| eXist Solutions GmbH | 2018 | eXist Solutions GmbH is the company that support companies in using the eXist-db platform.  I rewrote and restructures parts of the eXist-db online technical documentation for them. |
| Noordhoff Uitgevers,  Infinitas Learning | 2015 - 2018 | Noordhoff Uitgevers is an important educational publisher in The Netherlands. Together with the educational publishers Liber (Sweden) and Plantyn (Belgium) it is part of the holding company Infinitas Learning.  I worked for Infinitas/Noordhoff as content architect. A custom content model was designed. This model was implemented in their publish workflows, authoring systems and delivery platforms. |
| Malmberg | 2013-2015 | Malmberg is one of the main educational publish­ers in The Netherlands.  I supported them by developing a content model, based on existing content and plans. |
| ThiemeMeulenhoff | 2001- 2018 | ThiemeMeulenhoff is one of large educational publishers in The Netherlands.  I worked for ThiemeMeulenhoff in various projects, among which developing a database publishing architecture, system, CMS selection, and application development. |
| Kennisnet | 2011-2013 | Kennisnet is a government funded support organization for the Dutch educational market. I was lead architect in developing two XML standards/vocabularies, supported by eXist/XQuery based websites. |
| AssistiveWare | 2012-2013 | AssistiveWare develops assistive software for disabled people. Developed an eXist based conversion applica­tion that takes Adobe Indesign files (IDML) and turns them into XML suitable for an iPad app. |
| Kenteq | 2012 | Kenteq provides training for technical jobs in metal- and woodworking, ICT, etc. I performed an investiga­tion on changing the current course manual production system into something more versatile: Not just creating PDF's but also other formats/interfaces. |
| Line Up | 2011 | Line Up is a digital publisher and service provider. My task was to introduce an XML application platform and train/coach the employees in using this. |
| Compu’train | 2008-2011 | Compu’train is a well-known Dutch professional training organization. I developed and provided the XML and XSLT train­ing. |
| SVH | 2008-2011 | SVH is an education provider for the Dutch catering industry. I worked as a system’s architect for several of their applications. |

# Books

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | XProc 3.0 is a programming language for processing XML, JSON, and other documents in pipelines. XProc chains conversions and other steps, allowing for potentially complex processing.  I am a member of the editing committee for XProc 3.0.  This programmer reference was written to lower the learning curve and stimulate using the language. |
|  | eXist-db is an XML database and processing platform. Together with Adam Retter I wrote a book about it. |

# Personal data

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| --- | --- |
| Surname: | Siegel |
| First names | Robert Erik |
| Highest education: | Master’s degree Electronics |
| Date and place of birth | September 10, 1961, Amsterdam |
| Nationality: | Dutch |
| Address: | Speenkruidstraat 100 9731 GX Groningen  The Netherlands |
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| E-mail: | erik@xatapult.com / erik@xatapult.nl |
| Website: | www.xatapult.com / www.xatapult.nl |
| Driver’s license | Yes |
| Languages: | Dutch: Excellent (native language)  English: Good  German: Moderate |
| Company name: | Xatapult |
| VAT Id: | NL001654294B54 |
| Dutch Chamber of Commerce code: | 02072375 |

# Employer’s summary

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| --- | --- |
| 2009 - | Self-employed content engineer and XML specialist; company name Xatapult |
| 2001-2009 | Self-employed ICT consultant and systems architect; company name Siegel ICT |
| 2000-2001 | <theFactor.e>; Manager of software implementation department |
| 1998-2000 | EverMind Informatica; Consultant |
| 1989-1998 | KPN Telecom; various positions |
| 1989 | Logica; Analyst-Programmer |
| 1987-1988 | PTT Telematica laboratorium; Researcher |
| 1985 | Informatieteam; Programmer |
| 1982-1984 | Freelance programmer embedded systems |

# Education overview

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| --- | --- |
| 2011 | eXist Solutions  eXist-db Development and Performance training |
| 2008 | Cocoon  Be Value |
| 2007 | PAT Learning Solutions  PRINCE2 Foundation |
| 2004 | Portalyx  Content@ Fundamentals & API programming |
| 2004 | Cronos  Documentum Technical fundamentals |
| 2001 | Boertien en Partners  Train the trainer |
| 1999 | Sys Transition  Workshop skills |
| 1998 | ISES  Consultantancy skills |
| 1997 | PTT Professionalisering  Workshop Facilitator Skills |
| 1996-1997 | Transfer Solutions  Oracle Designer/Developer 2000 |
| 1995 | Staffware Workflow  Staffware Workflow |
| 1993 | PTT Opleidingen  Training Management skills |
| 1992 | INTEL Opleiding  C++ Object Oriented Programming |
| 1989 | Logica Opleidingen  Presentation skills, Working in teams |
| 1979-1987 | Technical University Twente  Master’s degree Electronics |

# Technology overview

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| --- | --- |
| XML, XSLT, XQuery, XProc, XML Schema, Schematron | Extensive experience with designing, documenting, and implementing XML based applications and systems. |
| eXist-db | Extensive experience with building systems with/on top of the eXist-db XML database. |
| Cocoon | Extensive knowledge of using and building applications for the open source XML processing framework Cocoon. Implementation of several applications with Cocoon. |
| IMS, SCORM | Interpreting and using these standards in the Educa­tional Publishing business. Especially QTI. |
| SOAP, WSDL | Designing, building, and testing Webservices using these standards. |
| HTML, PHP | Implementation of various websites using these technol­ogies |
| Visual Basic 6; VBA | Several programming assignments |
| C | Written lots of C programs (mostly Windows DLL’s). |
| Various assemblers | Written lots of programs in various assemblers, working as a freelance programmer during my student days. |