Steven Rombauts

ENDLESSLY CURIOUS SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Profile

I'm an enthusiastic software engineer with a strong background in web development.

As an independent consultant I help SaaS startups and companies to plan, build and grow their web applications and infrastructure.

As a product-minded developer I prefer to balance the technical with the product and business considerations.

As an experienced team lead and engineering manager, I take great pride in my ability to enthuse and motivate others and helping them grow and succeed.

I focused my technical skills primarily on building digital workflow and process management tools, company portals and customer dashboards. I also have extensive experience with infrastructure management, Linux server administration and automation.

Professional History

Engineering Manager, Zomentum

2022 — PRESENT

Scaling up the billing reconciliation platform Zomentum Connect (formerly known as Goolash), integrating it into the Zomentum software suite, as well as launching and maintaining Zomentum Payments.

Responsibilities:

- Created a new engineering team in the company
- Recruited, coached and trained junior software engineers
- Responsible for software design and architecture for half of Zomentum's product line
- Built a new payments product with $5M+ worth of transactions in its first 8 months

Technical co-founder and Lead Engineer, Goolash

2017 — 2022

Goolash is a Software-as-a-Service startup to help IT service providers maximize their profits. Acquired by Zomentum in 2021.

Responsibilities:

- Created Proof-of-Concept and nurtured it into a production-ready software application managing millions of IT licenses
- Idea validation and setting out product strategy
- On-boarding first customers and customer support
- Infrastructure architecture and maintenance
- Running marketing experiments and managing content strategy

Sofware Engineer, Timble

2012 — 2021

Timble provides enterprise level development services centered around web applications and specialises in technology consultancy, advising startups and large cooperations.

Responsibilities:

- Lead DevOps engineer in charge of infrastructure management and systems monitoring.
- Planning and execution of [consultancy projects](#).
- Providing training and technical support on Timble client projects.

Software Engineer, Joomlatools

2012 — 2021

Joomlatools is a leading Joomla brand, providing world-class Joomla extensions and support.

Responsibilities:

- Lead Developer on the customer support portal.
- Planning, building and maintaining Continuous Integration pipelines.
- Lead Developer on a powerful suite of [open source development tools](#) for Joomla developers.
- Mentoring new hires and colleagues, code reviews
- Project management
- Contributing to [Nooku Framework](#)
- Writing [blog posts](#) to communicate our work and its significance to (potential) customers.

DevOps Consultant, Cavere

2015 — 2020

Cavere is an IT service provider in Belgium.

Responsibilities:

- Maintaining and securing their Linux infrastructure
- Hosting open source software (Joomla, Wordpress, osTicket, Odoo, ..)

Freelance consultant, self-employed

2012 — PRESENT

Working as a self-employed software developer and consultant, helping teams big and small deliver results for their clients.

I work together with startup and development teams to build and maintain web applications and infrastructure, as well as mentoring and training their software development teams.

PHP Developer, PINCoding

2008 — 2012

A web development company providing online services and applications for small businesses.

Responsibilities:

- PHP developer and project manager for a multitude of customer projects
- Analysis of customer requirements and translating them into workload estimation and development specifications

Career Highlights

Zomentum Payments

JANUARY 2023 — PRESENT

Managed the creation and development of [Zomentum Payments](#) to automate collection of recurring payments and simplify payment processes by integrating with existing accounting software:

- Built a fully functional proof of concept in 3 months with a team of 4 engineers
- Fully integrated with Adyen for Platforms for payment processing from day 1
- Launched in two countries and currencies (US/UK), supporting major credit card and Direct Debit schemes
- Handled increase in volume of payment transactions from $0 to $5M+ in less than 1 year
- Gathered initial customer feedback during development by demoing the product and assisted Customer Success and Sales Teams to onboard the first clients
- Managed the growth of the engineering team, tripling the number of members over 6 months
- Extensively revised development workflows and the way we approached team collaboration to deliver the best possible technical solutions. We succeeded in reducing regression bugs on new releases, going from 30% test coverage to 88% over 6 months, generally improving overall code quality and raising proficiency of every contributor to the same level

Goolash

2018 − 2021

Built the Goolash application to automate IT billing processes and helped to launch and market this startup. Supported every facet of the company, from the technical and development side to customer onboarding and support, as well as content writing and initial marketing efforts.

Acquired by Zomentum in 2021.

Platform API

2018

Implemented an API layer on top of the Linked-Law platform for content publishers.

Updating servers w/ Ansible

2017

Created Ansible scripts to automatically update all installed packages on existing Cloud infrastructure at Timble.

Time to apply security updates across the entire network now takes 35 minutes, instead of an entire day.

Marsvaardig

2017

Built a programmable hosting infrastructure and deployment pipeline for Marsvaardig, a startup bringing a new perspective to building and maintaining websites.

AI web platform

2017

Worked together with a team of researchers from Leicester University to create a web API from their existing research work written in R code, using AWS API Gateway and OpenCPU.

Linked-Law

2017

Built and helped to launch Linked-Law, a knowledge-sharing network for lawyers and jurists.

Puppetize existing infrastructure

2016

Design and replace all running cloud servers at [Timble](#) using Puppet configuration management, upgrading core technologies to latest versions in the process.

Peptide GPCR Project

2015

Built a project management tool to support the [Peptide GPCR](#) research project and automate data validation and transformation. Provided the tools to share the project results publicly with the wider community.

Joomlatools Vagrant

2014

Built, released and maintained this preconfigured [Vagrant box](#) for Joomla developers.

Over 20k downloads in its first two years!

Joomla Composer plugin

2013

Created and actively maintain the [Joomlatools Composer](#) plugin to install Joomla extensions automatically from the command line.

Improve deployments

2013

Replaced manual deployment processes with Capistrano-powered deployments for all [Joomlatools](#) applications. Reduced time for deployment from 1 hour to 2 minutes and eliminated all manual work.

Belgian Police platform

2012

Worked on the [Belgian Police platform](#) project, helping to build a high performance multi-site and multi-lingual platform for all 196 Belgian police zones.

Responsible for coding new features and hosting of the platform.

Mari-Team refactoring

2010

[Mari-Team](#) is an application that monitors and analyses oil samples from ship engines.

Spearheaded the refactoring of the legacy codebase and implementation of new features.

Development principles & approach

- Work from the **outside-in**; first understand the customer, the market and the problems at hand.
- Find an optimal solution through **rapid and early validation** using proof-of-concepts and minimal-viable-products.
- Know when to implement **throw-away code** and when to build for **scale**.
- **Mature through iteration**, prioritize the most important problems.
- Be comfortable with an **evolving approach** to technical challenges.

How can I help?

Need help with your current or future software projects? I'd love to help out!

Get in touch via hello@stevenrombauts.be.