

Derek Serfontein

FULL STACK DEVELOPER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Full-Stack Developer with 14+ years of experience architecting and maintaining scalable, enterprise-level SaaS platforms and data-sensitive web solutions. Proven expertise in transitioning complex functional requirements into maintainable, high-performing full-stack systems. Specializes in designing robust **frontend architecture** using **React** and **TypeScript**, establishing **scalable patterns**, and making sound **technical decisions** while clearly communicating **trade-offs**. Adept at identifying and addressing **technical risks**, improving **application performance**, **reliability**, and **maintainability**. Strong track record in **code review**, fostering collaborative engineering standards, and providing practical guidance and **mentorship** to intermediate engineers, driving projects from concept through delivery.

CORE SKILLS

- **Frontend & UI:** React, Vue.js (Vue 3), TypeScript, Next.js, HTML5, CSS3, Tailwind, Vite, Inertia.js, PrimeVue, Component Architecture, State Management
- **Backend & API:** Laravel (PHP), Node.js, Symfony, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MariaDB, Practical SQL, API Integration
- **Cloud & DevOps:** AWS (CDK, EC2), Vercel, GitHub, Bitbucket, Docker, Supabase, Neon
- **Testing & Quality:** E2E Testing (Playwright), Unit Testing (Pest/PHPUnit), Git, Code Review, Performance Optimization
- **Methodologies:** Agile (Scrum Master, Product Owner), Technical Leadership, Mentorship, Problem Solving, Technical Decision Making

WORK EXPERIENCE

FREELANCE WEB DEVELOPER | Self-Employed | Remote (2016 – Present)

- Architected and developed a secure, multi-tenant SaaS platform, establishing robust **frontend architecture** and **scalable patterns** using **TypeScript** and a full-stack JavaScript monorepo for enterprise-level data.
- Engineered and deployed an automated End-to-End (E2E) testing suite with Playwright, significantly improving **application reliability** and validating complex user funnels.
- Optimized AWS infrastructure for an XDS Verification Platform using AWS CDK and Node.js, implementing a custom EC2 NAT routing solution that reduced monthly costs by 70%.
- Spearheaded the end-to-end development and deployment of custom Shopify applications, taking **ownership** of technical architecture, pricing model integration, and app store release.

PRINCIPAL TECHNICAL SERVICES ENGINEER, EMEA | Impact.com | Cape Town (2014 – 2024)

- Directed daily technical operations, leading rapid response engineering teams in **troubleshooting complex technical problems** across application and integration layers, driving resolution and implementing permanent root-cause fixes.
- Served as Product Owner and Scrum Master for a globally distributed Rapid Response Team, managing critical infrastructure deployments and **owning substantial technical workstreams** from ideation to delivery using Agile methodologies.
- Bridged communication between external users, non-technical stakeholders, and internal engineering, championing new product features and contributing to **technical discussions** and delivery planning.
- Architected and implemented strategic initiatives to optimize client platforms, coordinating bespoke technical solutions for high-value enterprise accounts, enhancing platform **maintainability** and **performance**.

SENIOR WEB DEVELOPER | G Studio Branding Agency | Cape Town (2007 – 2014)

- Led full-stack web development and technical project management for high-profile clients, overseeing projects from visual design integration to backend database architecture.
- Engineered a comprehensive platform migration for Stellenbosch University, developing a scalable, custom templating system that enabled rapid content deployment across multiple departments.
- Served as Technical Project Manager for a complete website rebuild for Parmalat SA, architecting and deploying a bespoke Content Management System (CMS) that empowered internal teams.
- Maintained and scaled client websites, ensuring efficient, **testable code** and creating comprehensive software documentation.

WEB DEVELOPER | SAInvesco | Cape Town (2005 – 2007)

- Designed, built, and scaled web applications applying best-practice software engineering principles.
- Collaborated closely with design teams to translate visual concepts into functional, responsive HTML/CSS user interfaces.
- Integrated diverse backend services and databases, consistently documenting technical specifications and system architectures.

EDUCATION

VAN ZYL & PRITCHARD (WWW.VZAP.CO.ZA) | Cape Town (2002 – 2003)

- Diploma in Software Engineering (Specializing in JAVA Programming)
- Core Coursework: Object-oriented analysis & design, JAVA object-oriented programming, SQL, and Networking.