

# JEAN MERTZ

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## PROFILE

**Currently** a senior software engineer focused on the combination of high-level abstract APIs and low-level performance-driven systems. I am an avid learner and an excellent communicator. I am a pragmatic ethical engineer with a knack for software architecture, an eye for user experience and a capacity to lead. **Seeking** a remote lead individual contributor role where my passion for building *the right things* in the *right way* can help a team deliver a truly outstanding product.

## EXPERIENCE

### BLENDLE – JANUARY 2015-PRESENT

*From individual contributor to CTO and back to a more engineering focused role.*

#### Lead Software Engineer

*January 2019 – present*

- conducted numerous in-depth multi-hour interviews with candidates to find the right person to replace me as the CTO of Blendle,
- re-found my passion and refocused my efforts on being actively involved in software engineering and architecture,
- stayed involved in non-technical duties such as the hiring process,
- collaborated with the product teams on software architecture decisions,
- built an automation system in Rust and WebAssembly for non-engineers.

#### Chief Technology Officer

*February 2016 – January 2019*

- was responsible for the engineering team and the software stack,
- collaborated in our hiring efforts,
- helped our engineers grow by coaching them and helping them in their personal development plans,
- helped foster a culture of software engineering and architecture,
- set out the technology roadmap in collaboration with the product roadmap,
- kept in close contact with our partners,
- worked closely with our product, marketing and operations divisions,
- introduced the Spotify model of “guilds” and led weekly check-in meetings,
- collaborated with Blendle's privacy & security officer on relevant topics.

#### Software Engineer

*January 2015 – February 2016*

- helped the adoption of software methodologies such as agile software development, test-driven development and pair programming,
- led a greenfield “Blendle Button” project written in Ruby and React,
- led the transition to a cloud-native Kubernetes-based infrastructure stack,
- focussed on optimising our communication and automating that which could,
- took on the role of scrum lead in several projects,
- built an in-house CI/CD pipeline on top of Jenkins and Kubernetes,
- collaborated on a high-performance Go-based even-driven email delivery system,
- built and integrated the “Blendle Premium” subscription service with payment service providers,
- built a high-performance Go-based analytics pipeline on top of Kafka.

## EARLIER WORK

### ASM LITHOGRAPHY (ASML)

#### Software Engineer Consultant

*April 2014 - October 2014*

I worked as a consultant from Kabisa ICT for the Dutch lithography company ASML. During my stint at ASML I worked with Ruby, Perl and Windows Batch scripts. I also worked on an enterprise scale Jenkins CI/CD setup and took on the role as a scrum master within our division.

### KABISA ICT

#### Software Engineer

*September 2012 - January 2015*

I worked on multiple projects, both in-house and on-site at customers. My main language of choice was Ruby, combined with the Rails framework, but there were some other languages as well (including JavaScript) and there was a not insignificant focus on infrastructure as code using Unix, Chef, Puppet and later Ansible and Docker.

### FREELANCER

#### Software Engineer

*April 2009 - September 2012*

In my early years after graduating I worked as a freelance software engineer, doing mostly contract jobs for local companies. I used languages such as PHP, Ruby, HTML/CSS and JavaScript to write custom CMS systems, mailing list systems, and maintained websites for customers.

## EDUCATION

ZUYD UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, THE NETHERLANDS –  
BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCES, 2005 - 2009

## SKILLS

### Languages

Ruby, Golang, Rust, HTML/CSS, Groovy, JavaScript, PHP, Swift, C, TypeScript, LUA, Elixir, WebAssembly.

### Software

Kubernetes, Terraform, Git, Kafka, Unix, Docker, Rails, Sidekiq, Google Cloud, Prometheus, Ansible, Amazon Web Services, etcd, Vault, Nomad.

### Soft Skills

Adaptability, Collaboration, Communication, Conflict management, Creativity, Critical thinking, Decision making, Desire to learn, Flexibility, Focus, Leadership, Listening, Mentoring, Motivating, Problem-Solving, Project management, Time management, Troubleshooting, Work ethic, Writing skills.

## PROJECTS

[YouTube Code Sessions](#), [Rustic Games](#) (w.i.p.), [Conference talk](#), [Jilu](#) (rust), [Conventional](#) (rust), [Automaat](#) (Rust/WebAssembly), [Hubbit](#) (Ruby), [go-streamprocessor](#) (Golang), [Kubectr](#) (Golang).