

Xavier Talpe

Software architect and technical lead
Lives in Deerlijk, Belgium

xaviertalpe.be
github.com/XavierTalpe
linkedin.com/in/xtalpe

Experience

Freelance Software Consultant

Since April 2018, Ghent, Belgium

- Leading development teams and helping software engineers become better at their craft.

NGDATA, Senior Software Engineer R&D

July 2016 - March 2019, Ghent, Belgium

- Designed, implemented and maintained features for a **big data analysis platform** using Java, HBase, Hadoop, Kafka... that processes **real-time and historical data** to enable personalized ads. Direct collaboration with product management to discuss impact, scope, priorities and estimates.
- Defined and built the architecture of a completely **new front-end application** using Vue.js to overcome severe quality and productivity issues with the old application. **Leading a team** of five developers to evolve this from prototype to a production ready application.

Addestino, Senior Software and Business Consultant

April 2015 - July 2016, Ghent, Belgium

- Designed and implemented a **microservice REST architecture** using Node.js, Docker and Marathon, paving the way for **zero downtime deployments** and **canary (A/B) testing** of new features. **Pushed a team to new heights** by improving the existing CI workflow and organizing **coaching sessions** and **workshops** on building production-ready software and designing future-proof APIs. Part of a team that built an Internet of Things platform capable of processing **1 million events per second**.
- Provided the groundwork for a **pre-commercial procurement** for the development of a hybrid cloud platform at **CERN**. Organized an **open market consultation** for 30+ industry leaders (Google, Amazon, IBM...) to assess risk and rewards.

TomTom, Senior Software Engineer

June 2014 - April 2015, Ghent, Belgium

- Maintained and extended the existing **Hadoop pipeline** to process over 50 million points of interest from various sources into TomTom's digital map platform.
- **Increased team productivity and collaboration** by introducing a pull-request driven development workflow integrated with automatic CI tests. **Coaching** of developers across time zones and at different geographical locations.

Luciad, GIS Software Consultant (1.5y) and Product Engineer (1.5y)

May 2011 - April 2014, Leuven, Belgium

- Consultant for **Fortune 500 companies, national intelligence agencies and multinationals** in the avionics and defense industry. Worked abroad around 50% of the time including long term stays (up to 3 months) in the USA, UK and Turkey.

- **Technical lead** for multiple GIS projects (web, mobile and desktop) typically **working on-site** at the customer's premise together with local software engineers. Projects include a demonstrator for monitoring real-time flight radar data for a major company in the U.S. aviation industry. Led to a **multi-million dollar** contract.
- Managed project estimates, provided technical **support to sales and pre-sales** teams, organized **trainings and workshops** for software developers. Highly experienced in collaborating across time zones, **working in secure, disconnected environments and managing stressful situations**.
- Built a rapid development framework for creating **Geographical Information Systems** on Android (think Mapbox or Google Maps API and beyond). **Highly exceptional** focus on **accuracy, performance** and **API design**. [See this video](#) for a great overview of the capabilities that our products (mobile, web, desktop) supported.
- Designed and implemented a very fast **real-time label deconfliction algorithm** in Android and Javascript. Considered 'computationally too expensive' by competitors.
- Technical lead for a **European research project** to investigate the effect of proactive decision support systems for emergency workers.

Amplexor, Web Development Consultant

September 2010 - May 2011, Leuven, Belgium

Skills

Strong sense of **ownership**, naturally takes up the role of **technical lead**

Teaches best practices and solutions to improve **team knowledge and productivity**

Exceptional focus on **code quality and design**

Methodical worker and **gets things done**

20 years of full stack software engineering experience. Although my main expertise is in Java and Javascript, I consider myself to be language and platform agnostic, always picking the right tools for the job.

- Architecture: Microservices, Lambda, REST
- Languages: Java, HTML, CSS, Javascript, Node.js, Typescript, Vue.js
- Databases: SQL, NoSQL
- Tools: IntelliJ, Gradle, Maven, Git, Linux
- Devops: Docker, Jenkins, Bamboo
- Technologies used professionally in the past years: Android, Nginx, Elasticsearch, Kibana, S3, AWS, HBase, Kafka, Hadoop, HDFS, MapReduce, Nuxt, Vuetify and many, many more

Education

University of Leuven (KUL), Belgium

2010 - 2011: Master in Engineering: Computer Sciences, cum laude (70%)

2008 - 2010: Master in Informatics, major in Multimedia, cum laude (74%)

2005 - 2008: Bachelor in Informatics, cum laude (69%)

Master Thesis: Interactive Illumination with Coherent Shadow Maps

Real-time 3D visualization of soft shadows by precomputing and compressing visibility information of an object.

Extra

[StackOverflow](#) contributor (+3K reputation)

