

Stephane van der Aa

Software Designer · Web Application Developer · AI & Data Science · Author

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PROFILE

Computer scientist with a long-standing specialisation in object-oriented design and a passion for building well-structured, secure web applications. After sixteen years at Alight Solutions — where I moved from software design through business-unit leadership into pre-sales and strategy — I now design and develop my own web and mobile applications, have published two books on modern software practice, and am completing a third on neuro-rights. Since May 2026 I am deepening my applied-AI skills through BeCode's full-time AI & Data Science programme. My goal is to return to hands-on software and application design and development, with a particular focus on web applications and AI- and data-driven products.

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Object-oriented analysis, design and implementation.
- End-to-end web and mobile application development, from concept and UX through delivery.
- Application security and trustworthy software design.
- AI-assisted development workflows, machine learning and the integration of language models into software products.
- Neuro-rights, digital privacy and the legal frameworks governing cognitive liberty.

CURRENT TRAINING

AI & Data Science · BeCode · *Brussels · hybrid*

May 2026 – Present

- Seven-month intensive, full-time, on-site programme; target outcome: Data Analyst / Data Scientist.
- Python, machine learning, data analysis, data engineering and applied AI projects.

EXPERIENCE

Independent Software Designer & Developer · stepvda.net · *Brussels*

2020 – Present

- Design and build web and mobile applications end-to-end, taking responsibility for product concept, software design, implementation and operations.
- Founded and built **TI One Voice** (one.witysk.org): a self-hosted human rights documentation platform with multilingual content, authoring, real-time communications, document-integrity timestamping and an AI-assisted analysis layer (FastAPI / React / PostgreSQL, graph and vector search, local LLM inference).
- Current work-in-progress includes **Meet**, **Chattify** and **Domains** — independent web/app projects exploring messaging, identity and domain-centred workflows.
- Author of three books on software practice and technology policy (see Publications).

Strategy Director · Alight Solutions (formerly NGA Human Resources) · *Brussels / International*

2016 – 2020

- Senior internal advisor on product and platform direction across the firm's HR-technology portfolio.
- Final stage of a sixteen-year career spanning four corporate ownerships, moving progressively from software design into commercial leadership and strategy.

Pre-Sales · Alight Solutions (formerly NGA Human Resources) · *Brussels / International*

2014 – 2016

- Translated client needs into solution proposals across the firm's HR-technology and content-management offerings; worked closely with sales, delivery and product teams to win and shape new engagements.

Business Unit Manager · Enterprise Content Management · Alight Solutions (formerly NGA Human Resources) · *Brussels*

- Led the ECM business unit, with responsibility for the firm's Knowledge Management and Document Management solutions — product direction, delivery teams and client outcomes.

Software Designer · euHReka · Alight Solutions (formerly NGA Human Resources) · *Brussels*

- Software design work on the firm's flagship HR outsourcing platform, contributing to the architecture and component design of euHReka.

Senior Consultant · Fujitsu Consulting / DMR Consulting · *Brussels*

1999 – 2004

PUBLICATIONS

Neuro-Rights: The Battle for the Last Private Place · Book · *Forthcoming, 2026*

- A comprehensive guide for citizens, legislators and the global community on cognitive liberty, mental privacy and the emerging legal frameworks for protecting the mind. Expanded fourth edition, published as part of the TI One Voice initiative.

Coding with AI: A Field Report · Book

- A practitioner's perspective on developing software with the assistance of modern AI tools — workflows, prompting, review and quality. amzn.eu/d/0a6rzXoJ

Building Secure Web Applications · Book

- A focused treatment of the security concerns that arise when designing and operating modern web applications. a.co/d/0gMWP6gO

SKILLS & CAPABILITIES

Software Design Object-oriented analysis and design, component architecture, application security, methodology.

Web & App Development Full-stack web application delivery (Python/FastAPI, React, PostgreSQL), mobile/web app design, AI-assisted development.

AI & Data Python, machine learning, data analysis, vector and graph databases, local LLM inference, RAG pipelines.

Domain Experience Enterprise content management, knowledge and document management, HR technology, real-time communications, digital privacy and neuro-rights.

Leadership Business-unit management, pre-sales, strategy, working with international clients and delivery teams.

WORKING STYLE

Jung / Myers-Briggs type: INTJ — the Scientist and Strategist (Introvert · Intuitive · Thinker · Judger). Analytical, independent and systems-oriented; drawn to long-horizon problems and structured, well-reasoned solutions. Test report (2015): archive.org/details/123-test-report-2015-11-22-16.30.18

EDUCATION

Computer Science · Hogeschool Gent (HOGENT) · *Ghent, Belgium*

1996 – 1999

Specialisation in object-oriented design and analysis; followed by two decades of continuous self-directed study in software, security and applied AI.

LANGUAGES

Dutch native **French** fluent **English** fluent **German** working