RON VALSTAR
FRONT-END DEVELOPER

personal info

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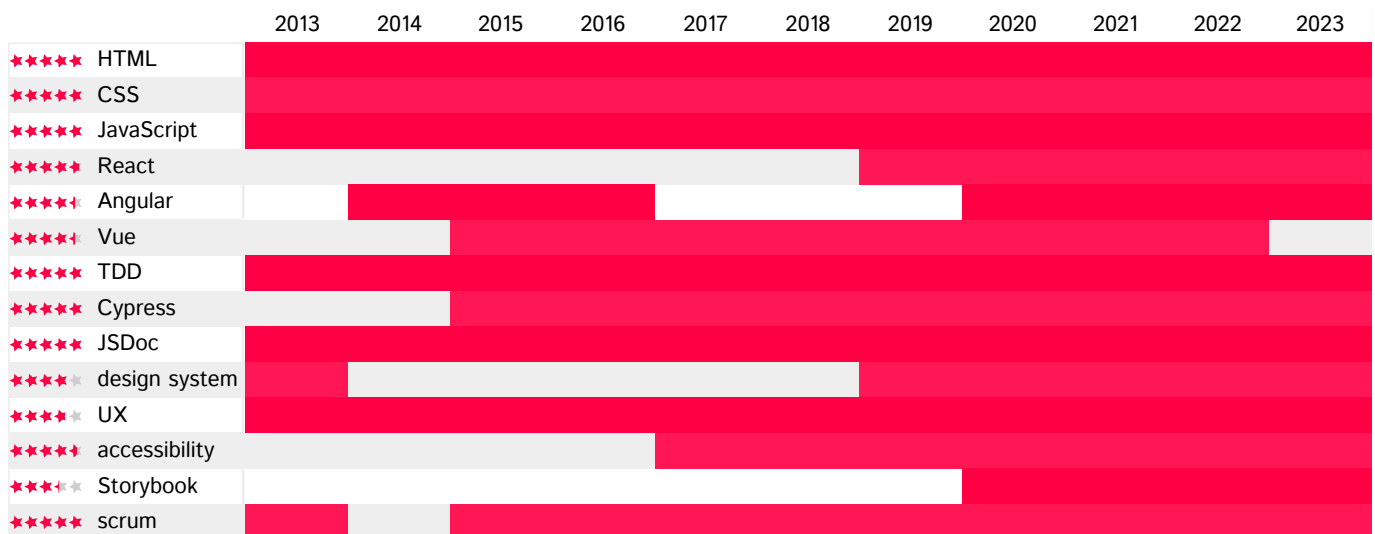https://nl.linkedin.com/in/ron-valstar-4b20a917

profile

I'm a passionate front-end developer with more than twenty years of experience in developing digital media.

My formal background is graphic- and interaction design and I strive toward consistency and cleanliness in both code and design.
I have a strong affinity for Test-Driven Development and accessibility (WCAG).

I can read and write several backend languages and I'm not afraid to learn something new.

skills

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
★★★★★	HTML											
★★★★★	CSS											
★★★★★	JavaScript											
★★★★★	React											
★★★★☆	Angular											
★★★★☆	Vue											
★★★★★	TDD											
★★★★★	Cypress											
★★★★★	JSDoc											
★★★★☆	design system											
★★★★☆	UX											
★★★★★	accessibility											
★★★☆☆	Storybook											
★★★★★	scrum											

education

- 2023 Practical accessibility course
- 1999–2000 University of Portsmouth (HKU): European Media Master of Arts, Interactive Multi Media (MA)
- 1996–1999 HKU: Interaction Design (BA)
- 1993–1996 CIBAP: Advertising
- 1992–1993 Basic course advertising, LOI
- 1987–1992 HAVO

work experience

- 2007–2023 freelance front-end developer (porfolio)
- 2000–2007 co-founder of Shapers
- 1998–2000 freelance webdesigner

projects

Rijkswaterstaat DIWA   2023-06 / 2023-07

Development of an interactive infographic animation. The animation made using only HTML and CSS with special attention to accessibility.

client: Rijkswaterstaat
CSS HTML accessibility

Studyblend   2021-03 / 2023-03

Rebuild of an online learning tool that allows teachers and students to track their progress during a course. The stack was moved from AngularJS/Laravel to React/MongoDB. A lot of the old manual configuration is now automated and new features are added. I also changed various flows to improve usability. The build implements a merged test coverage from back- to front-end, from unit- to end-to-end tests.

client: Shapers
UX Webpack JavaScript React REST NodeJS MongoDB Imagekit Sendgrid Netlify Jest Cypress Docker TSLint CI/CD

Randstad microservices   2020-10 / 2023-01

Front-end developer in a team to rebuild existing monolithic functionalities to orchestrated microservices. I developed white-label Angular components for different Randstad operating companies. Setup code generation through Swagger (later OpenAPI) so frontends could easily be written before the backend was ready.
I had a leading role in moving and aligning all front-end projects to an Nx-based monorepository. This was done to make code sharing easier (before we'd publish to private NPM).
This included adding Markdown documentation generation to the pipelines, as well as different Storybooks for the design system.

client: Randstad
scrum design system CSS HTML TypeScript Nx Angular NgRx RxJs JSDoc MKDocs TypeDoc Storybook TDD Jest Cypress accessibility Docker ESLint

CMS update for 'I can change'   2021-11 / 2022-11

'I can change' is a foundation that promotes urban gardening in the middle of Amsterdam. I updated their website to the latest version of the Kirby framework. In addition, I added several custom Vue components that make updating and communicating a lot easier.
Work was done as volunteer work.

PHP Kirby JavaScript HTML CSS Vue

Sympany spreadsheet plugin   2021-11 / 2022-04

Volunteer work developing an open source WordPress plugin that reads and displays spreadsheets as blocks. The spreadsheets can be interacted with while keeping their calculating functionality.

client: Sympany
JavaScript HTML CSS Wordpress open source

Design United 2021   2021-09 / 2021-10

Development of the 2021 design-united website that broadcasts the Dutch Design Week live. The site is a React SPA onto a WordPress REST API and showcases about 40 projects from students of four Dutch universities. I created custom Gutenberg blocks to expose specific data through the WordPress REST API.

client: Design United, Shapers
React Redux JavaScript HTML CSS SVG WordPress

Project Invoice
2015-11
2021-01

Design and development of a [local-first](#) invoicing application. All data is stored on your local machine and transferable by peer-to-peer connection. Styling and copy of invoices and quotations are completely customizable.

JavaScript Vue UX TDD Cypress Redux Docker

Takeaway Foodball quiz
2020-07
2020-07

Front-end development of a mobile web app. The app is a video quiz with which you can win discount vouchers to Takeaway.
The tech stack used was a React/Nextjs frontend onto a Laravel REST API.

client: Superhero Cheesecake
scrum React Sass Nextjs Laravel

Boon Learning
2019-11
2020-3

To turn their bespoke e-learning platform into a subscription based one a customisable redesign was needed.
We created a design system to integrate with their existing sources. These sources are in [Haxe](#), which is obscure but similar to languages I'm familiar with. We wrote documentation and created the first two customisable themes.

client: Boon software
scrum design system HTML CSS BEM Docker Haxe framework

Randstad planning application
2017-04
2019-09

Lead front-end developer responsible for responsive implementation of an existing planning application. Improved speed performance in existing lists and tables with large amounts of data. Implemented stricter code linting and added component testing with Cypress. Created prototypes for possible future implementations.

client: Randstad
scrum CSS HTML JavaScript JSDoc performance TDD accessibility scrum UX Cypress

Disconnect
2018-09
2019-06

Technical experimentation and development of a site for an audiovisual performance. The site is a three-dimensional environment with custom GLSL shaders for video and audio with subtitles.

client: Stichting M31 Foundation
3D JavaScript procedural WebGL Webpack GLSL

Vodafone
2015-09
2016-12

Rebuilt shop flow into a single page application using Angular. Added several improvements to the build process. Updated/refactored a lot of legacy code. Improved code quality.

client: Vodafone
Jira scrum CSS HTML JavaScript Angular Grunt NodeJS TDD Cucumber

API conversion Elasticsearch widget
2016-03
2016-07

Implemented and styled the, previously developed, Education Widget for the Ministry of Education of the Netherlands Antilles. Source API changes required updates to the code that populated the Elasticsearch backend.

client: Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, Division for Educational Innovations
CSS HTML JavaScript Grunt Elasticsearch Bootstrap JSDoc

Zeker met je creditcard
2015-04
2015-06

Front- and backend development of zekermetjecreditcard.nl, a single page Angular website that uses Wordpress as a REST API.

client: Build In Amsterdam
3D/WebGL HTML JavaScript Wordpress Angular

Education widget

2014-08
2015-01

For Studiekeuze123 I created a widget that searches all available educations in the Netherlands. We pulled data from existing endpoints into Elasticsearch for speed. Source-generated documentation and examples were created so the widget could be easily implemented and styled by third parties.

client: Studiekeuze123
CSS HTML JavaScript Grunt Elasticsearch Bootstrap JSDoc Python

Total Timeline

2014-08
2014-10

The largest timeline ever created, showing major events in the history of time.

3D REST CSS HTML JavaScript Perlin Noise Grunt illustration UX cool shit

Philips website

2013-05
2013-07

Transformed demo into workable code. Helped setting up coding guidelines for future views and components. Implemented the more complex components and simpler example components. Setup a build that generated the documentation through JSDoc.

client: De Voorhoede
scrum design system HTML JavaScript Less JSDoc

Budlight Sensation

2013-03
2013-05

Implementation of Sensation event into the existing Canadian Budlight website. The event was spread into a number of phases which had to be deployed at specific dates.

client: Resn
CSS HTML JavaScript PHP Laravel REST Backbone

Chocolátl

2013-03
2013-05

A new store in the Jordaan called Chocolátl. And it sells chocolate.
Together with graphic designer Ibrahim Farah a website for the store was created: clean and staightforward. Both Ibrahim and I are now a bit more addicted to chocolate.
There's also rumor of a webshop being developed.

CSS HTML Wordpress UX concept

Yoleo game

2013-01
2013-02

Yoleo is a website that helps children with their reading by making it fun and challenging. I developed an 'end-game' that children could play after reading a certain amount. Development of the game also required a level-editor.

client: Shapers
CSS JavaScript Less UX concept

Novartis

2011-05
2011-07

A virtual 3d panorama tour in HTML5/CSS3, consisting of multiple panoramas through which you navigate by space or by stories.

client: Novartis International AG
HTML CSS JavaScript XML XSLT

Soundcircus

2011-03
2011-05

Flash website that won an FWASOTD, an ADCN Lamp and a Webby!

client: Pool Worldwide
CSS HTML jQuery PHP ActionScript Flash

Allerhande

2010-01
2010-05

I was front-end ActionScript developer in the Fabrique/Lukkien/freelancers SCRUM team that developed the Allerhande website.

client: Lukkien
HTML scrum JavaScript ActionScript Flash scrum PureMVC

3D panoramas

2009-03
2009-06

User interface design and front-end Flash ActionScript 3 development for an application that links 3-dimensional panoramic views for architectural photography.

client: Iwan Baan
3D Perlin Noise XML XSLT ActionScript

Ome Willem

2005-05
2005-07

Interaction design, graphic design and development for the Ome Willem website.

client: Ome Willem
CMS HTML XML graphic design ActionScript Flash illustration UX graphic design concept

Kleuren speuren

2002-01
2003-01

Kleuren Speuren is an educational game designed for children aged 6 to 12. I was involved in the entire process from concept to development. My main job was doing all the illustrations and the programming.

client: Sikkens Foundation
graphic design illustration UX game Director Lingo concept