



Stéphan Zych

Lead Developer · Frontend Architect · Technical Co-Founder / CTO

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Profile

Technical leader with 15+ years of experience delivering web platforms, evolving from frontend development into lead developer, CTO, and architecture-driven roles. My background combines deep frontend expertise with strong full-stack implementation skills across modern JavaScript and PHP ecosystems, including WordPress, Laravel, React, Vue, and component-based templating systems.

I specialise in building the technical foundations that help teams deliver better: architecture, tooling, conventions, developer experience, and pragmatic standardisation. Across agency, founder, and international consulting environments, I have led teams, shaped delivery processes, advised on technical scope, and remained hands-on in the implementation of scalable, maintainable, high-performance web platforms.

Core Expertise

Technical leadership and architecture · Frontend and full-stack web platforms · Developer experience, tooling, and project standardisation · Technical scoping, estimation, and advisory · Design systems and component-based development · Accessibility, performance, and maintainability · Team mentoring, onboarding, and engineering best practices

Professional Experience

Lead Developer — CBTW

Brussels, Belgium · 2023 – Present Lead developer working within a larger international structure following the integration of Cherry Pulp into CBTW. My role combines hands-on technical delivery with cross-team alignment, with a focus on normalising processes, improving consistency between development teams, and evolving shared tooling and project foundations.

- Contribute to the standardisation of technologies, workflows, and development conventions across teams
- Maintain and evolve internal tooling and boilerplates originally developed at Cherry Pulp and still used within CBTW
- Improve team workflows through automation, practical processes, and developer experience enhancements
- Work across distributed teams and international project contexts
- Expand technical scope through exposure to enterprise environments using Microsoft internal tooling and AWS
- Contribute to architecture, debugging, delivery support, and project structuring across multiple concurrent projects

Co-Founder / CTO / Head of Frontend — Cherry Pulp

Brussels, Belgium · 2013 – 2024 Co-founded and helped grow Cherry Pulp, a digital agency focused on custom websites, digital platforms, and web applications. Over time, my role evolved from frontend leadership into broader technical ownership, covering architecture, tooling, delivery foundations, scoping, team support, and technical decision-making across the company.

Key achievements

- Delivered 200+ web platforms and digital products
- Helped grow the company from 6 to 20 people
- Supported and mentored development teams, with up to 10–12 developers at peak
- Contributed to the company's continued evolution until its acquisition by CBTW in 2023

Responsibilities and impact

- Defined technical direction, project architecture, and stack choices across client projects
- Built and maintained reusable boilerplates, conventions, and CLI/tooling to streamline project setup and long-term maintenance
- Improved developer experience and delivery consistency through standardised workflows and shared technical foundations
- Played a key role in technical scoping, estimation, and client advisory during project discovery and delivery

phases

- Contributed to technical hiring, onboarding, and knowledge sharing across the team

Representative clients Unicef · Oxfam · Engie · Delhaize · Telenet · KBC Brussels · Latour & Petit · Cefic · Business Europe · Clear Channel · Monizze · Solidaris · eFarmz · RTL · RTBF

Example platform foundation Designed a modular web delivery approach around Docker, WordPress with Bedrock, structured conventions, and custom deployment workflows using Forge and Lightsail, making project setup faster, maintenance easier, and delivery more consistent for development teams.

Freelance Web Developer

Brussels, Belgium · 2011 – 2016 Full-stack development of websites and digital platforms with a strong focus on semantic markup, performance, and maintainable architectures.

Earlier Roles

- **Rich Media Developer** — TBWA Group (2012 – 2013)
- **Frontend Developer** — Agency.com (2011 – 2013)
- **Co-Founder / Rich Media Developer** — La Cerise Numérique (2010 – 2013)
- **Web Designer / Integrator** — Com2B Networks (2009 – 2011)

Technical Skills

Frontend

JavaScript · TypeScript · React · Next.js · Vue · Astro · AngularJS Tailwind CSS · PostCSS · SCSS · Storybook

Backend

PHP · Laravel · WordPress architecture (Bedrock, Sage) · Symfony ecosystem familiarity

Infrastructure & Tooling

Docker · Docker Compose · Linux (Ubuntu) · Nginx · AWS Lightsail · Cloudflare · Laravel Forge · Vite · Webpack

Engineering Practices

Frontend architecture · Platform design · Web performance optimisation · Maintainable systems · Accessibility · Developer experience

Technical Interests

AI-assisted development workflows and local LLM tooling · CLI utilities and developer tooling · Docker-based home-lab · Prototyping in Python, Go, Rust, and C# · Game development with Godot

Leadership & Community

- **Internal tech talks at CBTW** — “Terminal utilities & Advanced use cases”, “Conventions and patterns in actual production”
- **Member** — Réseau Entreprendre Bruxelles (2019 – 2023)

Education

- **Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles** — Bachelor, Plastic, Visual and Spatial Arts
- **Université Libre de Bruxelles** — Computer Science studies
- **École de Recherche Graphique (ERG)** — Visual Narration studies
- **CEPEGRA** — Graphic production training

Languages

- **French** — Native
- **English** — Professional working proficiency