Mathias Verraes

Resume

I'm a serial entrepreneur, a trusted strategy & tech advisor, an experienced software architect, an author, and a keynote speaker. I've consulted for CTOs and IT leaders across industries.

As a strategist, I align technical, commercial, organisational, product, and business needs to enable successful software, using deep modelling techniques I created. Along the way I've picked up many entrepreneurial skills, including sales, marketing, finance, and leadership.

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📍 Kortrijk, Belgium   🎂 February 7, 1979   🌐 EN · NL · (FR)

Professional Experience

Aardling Board Director, Advisor   2026 - Present

- As majority shareholder, I remain involved with the company. I advise the new CEO as he expands operations and adapts to new market demands.

Aardling CEO, Founder, Consultant   2019 - 2026

- Founded Aardling, a boutique consultancy that advises on strategy, software architecture, and organisational design, with a penchant for complex environments.
- Closed deals with clients ranging from startups to F500s.
- As a trusted advisor for my clients, my focus was on strategy, ensuring that the environmental, organisational, product, and business aspects align to create successful software teams & systems.
- Created DDD Academy, a curated marketplace for software architecture & engineering courses, both remote and in-person.
- Created the Data Mesh Live conference, and acquired the NewCrafts conference.
- Kept the company profitable from day one, and grew it to 10 FTEs and a network of 50+ external consultants & trainers.

Human Music Co-founder   2016 - 2018

- Organised Laracon, an international software conference in Amsterdam & Lisbon.
- Created the Laravel Certification program.

Domain-Driven Design Europe Founder, Curator
2015 - 2025
- Created a conference for the software architecture & design community.
- Grew it from 400 delegates to 1300 delegates from all continents.

Freelance Consultant
2012 - 2019
- Consulted for clients on software architecture and adjacent topics.
- Trained ±1400 software engineers, architects, and analysts on Domain-Driven Design.

Various employers Lead Software Engineer
2010-2012
- Ausy: Led a team to build school management system.
- iController: Led a team to rebuild the in-house debt collection app into a multitenant SaaS, and built a new product for invoicing.
- Marlon: Worked on the 4411 parking app and led a team to build an e-commerce platform.

Timble Co-Founder, Lead Engineer
2007 - 2010
- Developed and marketed a web-based Document Management System.
- Developed and marketed a Translation Management System for websites.
- Consulted for NHS, Unicef, Belgian Police, Italian Institute of Technology.
- Contributed to Joomla, an Open Source Content Management System.

Composer Conductor, Music Producer
2000 - 2007
- Composed & produced music for pop artists, films, documentaries, and commercials.
- Orchestra Recording Engineer for Dirk Brossé.
- Founded & conducted a pop choir.

Notable Clients

Finance
Dankse Bank (DK)

Glass Lewis (US)

Baillie Gifford (UK)

Delta Lloyd (NL)

MacQuarie (AUS)

SumUp (DE)

Supply Chain
SAP (DE)

Rotterdam Port (NL)

DFDS (DK)

Katoen Natie (BE)

Retail & Food
McDonalds (US)

Shopify (CA)

Coolblue (NL)

Contorion (DE)

Just Eat Takeaway (DE)

Media
Spotify (SE)

Nielssen (US)

NRK (NO)

Red Bull Media (AT)

Telecom
British Telecom (UK)

Telenet (BE)

Proximus (BE)

Automotive
Volvo (SE)

Porsche (DE)

Renault (FR)

Mobility
FlixBus (DE)

Sixt / DriveNow (DE)

Energy
Engie Trading (FR)

Danske Commodities (DK)

Aviation
Jeppsen / Boeing Digital (US)

Education

Royal Conservatory of Ghent Music Composition & Production   Graduated 2003
  Magna cum laude

Atheneum Kortrijk Mathematics, Modern Languages   Graduated 1998
  First prize for Dutch

Other Activities and Achievements

Author   2023

  I wrote "Design & Reality", a book on software architecture and leadership, with Rebecca Wirfs-Brock. I also contributed to two other software books.

Keynote Speaker   2013 - Present

  I've spoken at ±100 conferences across Europe and North-America, including NDC, GOTO, DDD Europe, DDD eXchange, ExploreDDD, and NewCrafts, for audiences of up to 1500 people.

Blog Author   2011 - Present

  I write at verraes.net, an influential software blog.

Open Source developer

  My most ambitious open source project is Parsica, a Haskell-inspired library for parsing programming languages & DSLs. I wrote it in pure functional PHP as a pandemic hobby.

Improv Actor   2023 - Present

  As a hobby, I perform improvisation theater with different theater companies.

Mensa member   2026 - Present