

Stéphane Nicoll

Principal Software Engineer | Spring Engineering Team

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Professional Summary

Accomplished Software Engineer with over 20 years of experience, specializing in Java enterprise development and open source leadership. **Core contributor to the Spring Framework and Spring Boot** projects, actively shaping the modern Java ecosystem. Experienced in open source governance, educational initiatives, and building critical infrastructure. Passionate about developer experience, clean architecture, and technical mentorship.

Technical Skills

- **Core:** Java, Spring Ecosystem.
- **Architecture:** Distributed Systems, API Design, Software Infrastructure.
- **Build & Tooling:** Apache Maven, Gradle, CI/CD pipelines.
- **Practices:** Open Source Governance, Developer Experience, Clean Architecture, Testing strategies.

Professional Experience

Broadcom (formerly VMware / Pivotal) | Remote | Software Engineer (Jan 2014 – Present)

Core member of the Spring Engineering team, driving the architecture and evolution of the world's most popular Java framework.

- **Spring Framework & Boot:** Active contributor designing core features used by millions of developers globally.
- **Spring Initializr:** Led the vision and development of start.spring.io until 2024, defining the onboarding experience for the entire ecosystem.
- **Community Leadership:** Delivered keynotes and technical sessions in 20+ countries. Mentored contributors and maintained high documentation standards.
- **Resilience:** Maintained technical continuity through major acquisitions (Pivotal → VMware → Broadcom).

Early Career

- **Senior Technical Expert** | BSB (2009 – 2013): Led R&D Tech Evolution team, bootstrapped offshore teams, and modernized enterprise stacks.
- **Senior Software Engineer** | ERDAS (2006 – 2009): Developed scalable geospatial data platforms.
- **Senior Consultant (R&D)** | BSB (2004 – 2006): Architected internal frameworks and managed release lifecycles.
- **Software Engineer** | Kiala (2002 – 2004): Built high-volume notification platforms (SMS/Voice) for logistics.
- **Researcher** | University of Namur (2002): Developed open-source e-learning multimedia tools (eConf).
- **Consultant** | Devoteam (2001 – 2002): Java enterprise solutions and internal technical training.

Community & Education

- **Coach** | HackYourFuture Belgium (2019 – 2021): Taught Git/GitHub and collaborative development to refugees and asylum seekers to foster inclusivity in tech.
- **Teacher** | Institut Saint-Laurent Liège (2017 – 2019): Taught evening courses on Computer Networks (OSI, TCP/IP) to adult learners seeking career transitions.
- **Coordinator** | Devoxx4Kids Liège (2013 – 2020): Co-organized the Liège edition; taught robotics and programming to children, making tech accessible from an early age.
- **Maven PMC Member** | Apache Software Foundation (2005 – 2019): Contributed to the governance and evolution of Apache Maven.

Education

Master in Computer Science | Facultés universitaires 'Notre-Dame de la Paix' (Namur) | 1996 – 2001 | *Magna cum laude*