

Vincent Vercauteren

Freelance Senior Java Backend Developer | AI & LLM integration

Chaumont-Gistoux, Belgium | +32 474 47 97 76 | vincent@vercauterenit.be | vercauterenit.be
linkedin.com/in/vincentvercauteren | github.com/VercauterenV | Vercauteren IT Expertise

- **12 years** of Java and Spring backend development, including **7 years on critical payment systems** at the National Bank of Belgium.
- Integration facade serving **8 business teams**; **5 projects migrated to Spring Boot 4 in about 4 days**, zero production incidents.
- Daily **AI-assisted development** with Claude Code, and **LLM applications built in Java** (RAG, document extraction).

PROFILE

Backend developer who likes solving technical and business problems and building systems people can rely on. I lead framework migrations, build integration layers that shield business teams from third-party constraints, and document my technical decisions. Looking for freelance backend missions in teams that already put AI to work, in Brussels, Walloon Brabant or fully remote.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Java Backend Developer, Freelance

Oct 2023 – Present

ONEM (National Employment Office), via Oliver James

- Built and maintain an integration facade used by **8 business teams**, implementing the vendor's mandatory contracts behind a stable API.
- Absorbed a **breaking change from the vendor** inside the facade, with no impact on any consuming team.
- Migrated **5 projects from Spring Boot 3 to 4 in about 4 days**, with zero production incidents (Jakarta EE 11, Jackson 3, Spring AMQP 4).
- Maintained and evolved Azure DevOps CI/CD pipelines deploying 5–6 services to OpenShift.
- Use Claude Code daily for coding, test writing and code review, with systematic human verification.
- Contribute to architecture decisions; maintain REST APIs and AMQP messaging contracts.

Technologies: Java 21, Spring Boot 4, Spring AMQP, RabbitMQ, OpenAPI, Azure DevOps, OpenShift, Claude Code

Fullstack Engineer, Consultant

2022 – 2023

Belgian Federal Public Service Finance, via Extia

- Contributed to the move from a monolithic core to microservices on Docker and Kubernetes.
- Delivered features across the Angular front end and Java back end, from analysis to documentation.
- Coached junior developers and enforced code quality standards.

Technologies: Java 11, Spring, Angular, Docker, Kubernetes, DB2, WebLogic

Java Software Engineer, then Technical Owner — 2015 – 2022

National Bank of Belgium

- Owned the **interface between the cash management and payment systems**: architecture, development and production releases.
- Kept it reliable for **hundreds of high-value interbank transactions per day**, including daily cash deposits from commercial banks.
- Designed REST APIs with custom Spring Security and wrote the database procedures behind them.
- Built extensive automated test coverage (JUnit, DBUnit, Cucumber) and led framework upgrades on legacy code.
- Coached junior developers.

Technologies: Java 8, Spring, Hibernate, IBM MQ, Oracle, SOAP, JUnit, Cucumber

Software Engineer — 2014 – 2015

Vecturis

Railway management software: C# desktop application (NHibernate, SQL Server) and Node.js back end with MongoDB.

AI PROJECTS

home-planner: RAG application for home maintenance — 2026, in progress

Spring Boot 4 | private repository, access on request

- RAG pipeline with **Spring AI 2.0 and PostgreSQL + pgvector**; Claude for answers, with a monthly cost cap.
- Local multilingual embeddings (ONNX): documents are indexed on the server, only relevant chunks reach the LLM.
- Task extraction from PDF manuals with structured output; natural-language input through tool calling.
- Technical choices recorded in **Architecture Decision Records**, including a measured Maven to Gradle migration.
- Built with Claude Code under strict guardrails: Testcontainers, jqwik, JaCoCo thresholds, a test-judge agent.

accounting-assistant: invoice and receipt extraction with an LLM — 2026

Java / Spring | github.com/VercauterenV/accounting-assistant

Sends invoices and receipts (PDF) to an LLM and extracts structured accounting data. Built on **direct API calls**, without LangChain4j or Spring AI, to master the underlying mechanics.

SKILLS

Backend: Java 8–25, Spring Boot 4, Spring Security, Spring AMQP, Hibernate / JPA, REST, OpenAPI, Microservices

AI: Claude Code, Anthropic API, Spring AI, RAG, Embeddings, pgvector, Structured output, LLM integration

Messaging and data: RabbitMQ, IBM MQ, PostgreSQL, Oracle, DB2, Flyway

CI/CD and cloud: Azure DevOps, OpenShift, Docker, Kubernetes, Maven, Gradle, Git

Testing: JUnit, Cucumber, Testcontainers, WireMock

Frontend (secondary): Angular, React, TypeScript

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Anthropic Academy: Claude 101, Claude Code 101, Claude Code in Action (2026)

Devoxx Belgium: Java and AI conference (2026)

Bachelor in Business Computing: Institut Paul Lambin, Brussels (2013)

LANGUAGES

French (native) | English (fluent) | Dutch (passive)