

# Thomas Nys

Hamme  
+32 475 269 452  
[hello@thomasnys.com](mailto:hello@thomasnys.com)  
[thomasnys.com](http://thomasnys.com)  
[linkedin.com/in/thomasnys](https://linkedin.com/in/thomasnys)  
[github.com/nysthee](https://github.com/nysthee)

## PROFILE

**FREELANCE DATA ENGINEER / ARCHITECT** with a passion for automation, distributed systems, building teams and a strong affinity for DevOps.

Presenting pragmatic solutions for complex data problems, always focusing on business value.

Looking for exciting companies that foster creativity, innovation, critical thinking and challenging the status quo.

## EXPERIENCE

### **Freelance Data Engineer / Architect, Hamme 2019 Present**

Consultancy in (big) data engineering, architecture and automation on all public cloud vendors.

### **Tech Lead Data Engineering Easyfairs, Woluwe-Saint-Lambert (freelance) 2019 2021**

Easyfairs has a history of doing things differently. Of being a disrupter and innovator in the events industry. A company that stands out. Today, our multi-format events span business-to-business professional and trade shows, business-to-consumer exhibitions, and fun-packed fan-fests. Plus summits, congresses and conferences. So you can understand why Easyfairs has become one of the Top 20 events companies in the world.

I joined Easyfairs HQ as 1 of the first people in the data intelligence team. Being responsible for architecting / bootstrapping what became their prime cloud data platform build on Google Cloud. The main purpose of this platform was democratizing data access across all verticals in the company, facilitating advanced analytics / machine learning and building standardized reports on top of all company data. I had the technical leadership over 6 BI developers and Data Engineers.

- Before joining Easyfairs there was no real cloud data ecosystem. I introduced a lot of best practices in terms of architectural design, deployment, infrastructure as

code and security. Not only was this beneficial for the data intelligence initiatives at Easyfairs but I was also successful in cross pollinating them to other teams in the IT department.

- Some of the technologies used in this project: Google Cloud Platform, dbt, Confluent Kafka, Scrapy, Google Kubernetes Service, Big Query, Big Query ML, Cloud Composer (airflow), AutoML, AI platform(Tensorflow).

### **Senior Data Engineer / Team Lead Big Industries, Kontich 2018 2019**

Big Industries is Belgium's leading Big Data systems integrator. Offering expert consultancy for architecture definition, data lakes on premise or in the cloud and data engineering.

- Before I joined Big Industries there was no defined onboarding flow for new hires. Under my initiative a clear and realistic learning path for all the different roles in the company was established.

- By joining Big Industries, I had the opportunity to work with big multi-national organizations across manufacturing, public services, accounting and the energy market. Some of the customers I worked for are:

- Bridgestone: IoT / data lake project on Azure (HD Insight, Hive, Event Hubs, Azure Data Lake Store, Spark structured streaming)
- Nike: data lake on AWS (Spark, Kubernetes, S3, Athena, Airflow)
- Atrias: data integration project on Azure (Kubernetes, Confluent Kafka, CosmoDb, Azure Data Lake Store)
- Vlaams Energie Agentschap: data lake on AWS (S3, Athena, AuroraDB)

### **Data Engineer, FoodPairing, Ghent 2016 2018**

FoodPairing helps food companies launching new successful flavors by a unique mix of data science and food science. I was recruited because of my firm background in engineering as well as food.

- Before I joined FoodPairing there was a big variance in programming languages which led to huge lead and delivery times. I introduced Python as a common ground language which led to a huge rise in productivity and cross team collaborations.

- By joining FoodPairing in their early data journey I had the opportunity pioneering a lot of the solutions that shaped their data strategy: web crawlers, ETL pipelines with Spark, dashboards in Bokeh or custom reporting tools making data scientists and data analysts more productive.

### **Software Engineer, Rialto, Ghent 2015 2016**

Rialto makes the connection between real estate brokers and owners providing a platform for easily distributing marketing material and lead management for potential leases. They hired me to help them mature their MVP to a stable platform. For me it was a great opportunity working on such an early stage product.

- Due to the early stage of the platform technical debt was huge. I managed to reduce the codebase by about 50%, without removing business value. I also split up the frontend and the backend of the platform allowing for separate deploys, improving velocity.
- The version of the platform I started working on was backed by MongoDB, a great database technology but because of the relational nature of the data, not the best fit for this use case. I worked on the migration trajectory to PostgreSQL which led to great performance gains.

### **Software Engineer, Openminds, Ghent 2014 2015**

Openminds is a hosting company specialised in custom hosting solutions. They were acquired in 2016 by Intelli.gent group for their DevOps know-how. I was brought in to strengthen their software engineering team developing in Ruby. I took this job because I was eager to expand my horizon beyond pure service / operations.

- I took a leading role in the organisation of one of the self organising teams. A lot of my colleagues shared a long history together, being fairly new I was capable of having a real impact on improving the team's velocity.
- Working closely with system engineers I really had the opportunity to gain skills in DevOps related topics: config management, infrastructure as code and CI/CD.

### **Support Engineer, IT department City and OCMW Lokeren 2011 2014**

The IT department was responsible for providing all IT related services for the employees of the city and OCMW of Lokeren. I was hired because they really needed a generalist with excellent communication skills. I made the switch to IT since I always had a big interest in computers.

- When I joined Stad Lokeren all software was manually installed and maintained. I participated in the team that implemented centralised config management and provisioning reducing lead time for new machines from hours to minutes.

### **Cook 2007 2011**

I worked as a chef in several Michelin star restaurants holding positions from commis over chef de partie to sous-chef.

## EDUCATION

VDAB — Java EE developer, 2014

Hotel and catering school Ter Duinen, Koksijde — Cook and waiter, 2008

Koninklijk Atheneum, Aalst — Humane wetenschappen, 2004

## HOBIES

- Organizing the Belgium Kubernetes Meetup
- Running / walking / weightlifting
- Movies / series