

# Mike Mindel | Agentic AI engineer

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## Professional summary

**Agentic AI engineer** and founder-operator who builds AI skills, agents and Model Context Protocol (“MCP”) and CLI tools. I use AI to ship software that stays traceable, testable and easy to change.

My specialist area is agentic-driven development. I turn ambiguous ideas into bounded, reviewable work, using Python for deterministic checks and a visible Kanban board for delivery.

I co-founded [Wordtracker](#), led its technology from two developers to around 25 and helped scale turnover roughly 100×. I now build [Stride](#), a practical agentic system in use on paid client work. Available immediately for remote, hybrid or on-site work.

## Skills

| Category          | Technology                        | Proficiency    | Experience and context                                    |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| AI and agents     | Claude Code, Codex and Gemini CLI | Competent      | 2 years / 1 year / 1 year. Agent-assisted engineering.    |
|                   | Context engineering               | Competent      | 1 year. Making agent work reliable and traceable.         |
| Delivery practice | Linear and Kanban                 | Competent      | 1 year. Visible delivery and work-in-progress management. |
|                   | Atomic commits                    | Competent      | 10 years. Small, reviewable delivery steps.               |
| Languages         | Python                            | Very competent | 8 years. Agent checks, APIs and data systems.             |
|                   | TypeScript                        | Familiar       | 2 years. Web work and smart-glasses integration.          |
|                   | SQL                               | Competent      | 12 years. Product and analytics data.                     |

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|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Python and APIs      | FastAPI                                            | Competent                        | 2 years. Type-safe APIs with automatic documentation.         |
|                      | Pydantic                                           | Familiar                         | 2 years. Data validation and settings management.             |
|                      | pytest                                             | Familiar                         | 2 years. Test automation.                                     |
| Data and cloud       | Amazon Redshift, S3 and Athena                     | Competent / Competent / Familiar | 4 years / 10 years / 4 years. Wordtracker data stack.         |
|                      | AWS                                                | Competent                        | 6 years. Wordtracker infrastructure and data platform.        |
|                      | Google Cloud Platform (GCP)                        | Familiar                         | 6 months. Data engineering.                                   |
|                      | Docker                                             | Competent                        | 4 years. Local development and deployment.                    |
|                      | Fly.io, Vercel and Runway                          | Familiar / Competent / Familiar  | 2 years / 1 year / 6 months. Deployment and AI video tooling. |
|                      | Terraform                                          | Familiar                         | 1 year. Cloud infrastructure work.                            |
| Engineering practice | Test-driven development and object-oriented design | Competent                        | 8 years. Red, green, refactor and design for change.          |

## Professional experience

### January 2026–present | Stride | Founder and agentic engineer

[getstride.dev](https://getstride.dev)

- Built Stride, an agentic-driven development system that keeps AI-built software traceable, reversible and tied to a Vision.
- Built reusable skills, agents and CLI tools around bounded tasks, plans, atomic commits and independent review. The method is in use on paid client work.
- Presented [Stop building on quicksand](#) at the AI Global Festival, 2026.

*Python, Claude Code, Codex, Gemini CLI, MCP, Linear, Git.*

## 1998–present | Wordtracker | Founder and technology lead

[wordtracker.com](https://wordtracker.com)

- Co-founded the keyword-research SaaS, grew the engineering team from two developers to around 25 and helped scale turnover roughly 100× over its first decade.
- Wrote the FastAPI backend API and AWS data pipelines behind roughly 350M unique keywords, processing roughly 10B searches across 200+ territories.
- Technical leadership from developer through CEO / CTO, with hands-on product and engineering ownership throughout.

*Python, FastAPI, PostgreSQL, Redshift, AWS Glue, S3, Athena, Parquet, Elasticsearch, IAM, VPC.*

## June 2026 | Smart-glasses integration | 1 month, remote contract

For an early-stage AI startup, built and tested a [Convex](#) reactive-database app with real-time two-way sync to smart glasses. Delivered a prototype and written findings remotely.

**Constraint found:** Google sign-in could not run in the glasses' embedded WebView. Recommended email-based sign-in instead.

*TypeScript, Convex, Clerk, Even Realities G2 SDK, WebView.*

## Other projects

- **2026, [Codetidy](#):** Python toolkit for inspecting repositories.
- **2026, [app-starter](#):** Full-stack web starter with documented technology choices.
- **2020–present, [99bottles](#):** Sandi Metz's Python refactoring exercise.

## Education and recognition

- **BA (Hons) Film & Drama, 2:1**, Reading University, 1993–1996. **Computer Science & Maths**, Bristol University, 1991–1992.
- Interviewed by the [Financial Times](#) about Wordtracker's early growth.

## Interests

Agentic-driven development, software design and the practical systems that make AI-built software easier to trust and change. I'm particularly interested in bringing the hard-won software development practices of the last 40 years into the world of AI.

I'm a fan of the red, green, refactor TDD loop, Sandi Metz's flocking rules and atomic commits. They make code easier and cheaper to change.

Ran the [Wam Bam Club](#) and made the feature film [Don't Let Him In](#).