

Mike Mindel | Senior Python engineer (& AI architect)

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Professional summary

Senior Python engineer and architect who builds APIs, data pipelines and agentic engineering systems.

My specialist area is crunching data and writing Python APIs using AWS (Redshift), Google Cloud Platform (GCP). At Wordtracker I built the FastAPI backend, backed by Elasticsearch, and AWS data pipelines behind roughly 350M unique keywords. If you want to extract value from your data and present it via an API that's me.

I co-founded [Wordtracker](#), led its technology from two developers to around 25 and helped scale turnover roughly 100×. I now build [Stride](#), an agentic-driven development system for teams using AI agents to ship reliable software. Available immediately for remote contract work.

Skills

Category	Technology	Proficiency	Experience and context
Languages	Python	Very competent	8 years. Wordtracker backend and data systems; current Stride work.
	SQL	Competent	12 years. Product and analytics data at Wordtracker.
	Bash	Very competent	15 years. Development and operational tooling.
	TypeScript	Familiar	2 years. Web work and smart-glasses integration.
	Node.js	Familiar	2 years. Web work and integrations.
Python ecosystem	FastAPI	Competent	2 years. Type-safe APIs with automatic documentation.
	Pydantic	Familiar	

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			2 years. Data validation and settings management.
	Flask	Competent	8 years. Lightweight WSGI web framework.
	uv	Competent	2 years. Python environment management.
	ruff	Familiar	4 years. Linting and formatting.
	pyright	Competent	4 years. Static type checking.
	pytest and unittest	Familiar / Competent	2 years / 8 years. Test automation and unit-test suites.
	Pandas, NumPy and SciPy	Competent / Competent / Familiar	8 years / 8 years / 2 years. Data analysis and scientific computing.
	Peewee ORM	Competent	4 years. Lightweight Python ORM.
Data	PostgreSQL and MongoDB	Competent	6 years / 5 years. Product, application and document data.
	Amazon Redshift, S3 and Athena	Competent / Competent / Familiar	4 years / 10 years / 4 years. Wordtracker data stack.
	Elasticsearch	Competent	4 years. Search and analytics work at Wordtracker.
Web and APIs	REST, API design, WebSockets and GraphQL	Competent	10 years / 10 years / 6 years / 2 years. Production and real-time APIs.
	React, Next.js and Vite	Familiar / Competent / Competent	2 years. Current full-stack web work.
Cloud and delivery	AWS	Competent	6 years. Wordtracker infrastructure and data platform.
	Google Cloud Platform (GCP)	Familiar	6 months. Data engineering.
	Docker	Competent	

Category	Technology	Proficiency	Experience and context
			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.
	Git	Competent	10 years. Source control and pull requests.
	GitHub Actions	Competent	2 years. Automated checks.
Engineering practice	Test-driven development, object-oriented design, SOLID and design patterns	Competent	8 years. Red, green, refactor and design for change.
	Atomic commits	Competent	10 years. Small, reviewable delivery steps.
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.

Professional experience

1998–present | Wordtracker | Founder and technology lead

wordtracker.com

- Co-founded the keyword-research SaaS, grew its engineering team from two developers to around 25 and helped scale turnover roughly 100× over its first decade.
- **Technical leadership:** Developer from 1998, CEO / CTO from 2013–2021, then CEO while remaining close to the codebase and product.
- **Production API:** Wrote [Wordtracker's backend API](#) in Python and FastAPI, backed by Elasticsearch and serving production keyword data to the frontend.

- **Search data platform:** Processed roughly 10B searches across 200+ territories on Redshift into roughly 350M unique keywords. Built Redshift, Glue, S3, Athena and Parquet pipelines, including schema-drift and malformed-file handling.

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

January 2026–present | Stride | Founder and agentic engineer

getstride.dev

- Built a system for shipping AI-built software that stays traceable, testable and easy to change. Python provides deterministic checks around agent work.
- Built reusable skills, agents and CLI tools around bounded tasks, atomic commits, independent review and Kanban delivery. The method is in use on paid client work.

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

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

For an early-stage AI startup, scoped and delivered a viability spike for a smart-glasses integration. Built and tested a [Convex](#) reactive-database app with real-time two-way sync to the glasses, then delivered a prototype and written findings remotely.

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

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

Other projects

- **2026, [Codetidy](#):** Standalone Python toolkit for inspecting and tidying repositories, including link, naming, docstring and return-type checks.
- **2026, [app-starter](#):** Full-stack web starter with a documented rationale for each technology choice.
- **2020–present, [99bottles](#):** Sandi Metz's Python refactoring exercise, worked through as evidence of the approach rather than original authorship.

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. Presented [Five Powerful Ways to Use Keywords](#) at Ken McCarthy's System Seminar, 2008.
- Presented [Stop building on quicksand](#) at the AI Global Festival, 2026.

Interests

I am interested in 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.

I ran the [Wam Bam Club](#), a West End burlesque cabaret, and made the feature film [Don't Let Him In](#).