

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. I use the red, green, refactor TDD loop and refactor to make future changes easier and cheaper.

My specialist area is Python APIs and AWS data engineering. At Wordtracker I built the FastAPI backend and AWS data pipelines behind roughly 350M unique keywords.

I co-founded [Wordtracker](#), led its technology from two developers to around 25 and helped scale turnover roughly 100x. 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
Programming	Python	Expert	10+ years. Wordtracker backend and data systems; current Stride work.
	SQL	Expert	20+ years. Product and analytics data at Wordtracker.
	TypeScript and Node.js	Very competent / competent	5+ years. Web work, integrations and smart-glasses work.
	Bash	Very competent	20+ years. Development and operational tooling.
Python	FastAPI	Very competent	5+ years. Type-safe APIs with automatic documentation.
	Pydantic	Very competent	5+ years. Data validation and settings management.
	Flask	Competent	Lightweight WSGI web framework.

Category	Technology	Proficiency	Experience and context
	uv, ruff, pyright, mypy, pytest and unittest	Very competent	Environment management, linting, static analysis and tests.
	Pandas, NumPy, SciPy, Tortoise and Peewee	Competent / very competent	Data analysis, numerical work and lightweight Python ORMs.
Data	PostgreSQL and MongoDB	Very competent / competent	20+ years of product and application data; document-database work.
	Amazon Redshift	Very competent	10+ years. Cluster-level clickstream processing at Wordtracker.
	Amazon S3	Very competent	10+ years. Data storage and ingestion pipelines.
	Amazon Athena	Very competent	5+ years. Partition-aware querying at Wordtracker.
	Elasticsearch	Very competent	10+ years. Search and analytics work at Wordtracker.
Web and APIs	REST, API design, WebSockets and GraphQL	Expert / competent	20+ years. Production APIs, service boundaries and real-time integrations.
	OpenAPI	Very competent	5+ years. FastAPI API contracts.
	React, Next.js and Vite	Competent	2–3+ years. Current full-stack web work.
Cloud and delivery	AWS	Very competent	15+ years. Wordtracker infrastructure and data platform.
	Docker	Very competent	10+ years. Local development and deployment.
	Terraform	Competent	5+ years. Cloud infrastructure work.
	Git and GitHub Actions	Expert / very competent	20+ / 5+ years. Source control, pull requests and automated checks.
Engineering practice	Test-driven development and OO design	Expert	20+ years. Red, green, refactor and design for change.

Category	Technology	Proficiency	Experience and context
	SOLID, design patterns and atomic commits	Very competent	5–20+ years.
AI and agents	Claude Code, Codex, Gemini CLI, MCP, LLM APIs and context engineering	Very competent	1+ year. Stride and agent-assisted engineering.
	Stride	Expert	2026–present. Own methodology for traceable AI-assisted delivery.

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, 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.

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