

# Minor E. Gordon, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

[cv256@minorgordon.net](mailto:cv256@minorgordon.net)

<https://mg4.consulting>

Tulsa, OK 74114

## Summary

I am a **software architect** and **full-stack software engineer** with 9 years of experience in industry. I specialize in building:

- **complex web sites and web applications**, such as [Notablist.com](http://Notablist.com)
- **software-as-a-service (SaaS) implementations**
- **programming tools**, such as compilers and runtimes for domain-specific languages

I've worked on projects in a variety of domains, from supercomputing to the digital humanities. My strengths are a solid foundation in Computer Science, a range of hands-on skills, critical thinking, a systematic approach to new problems, attention to detail, high personal standards, a strong work ethic, and the ability to work autonomously. I am a lifelong learner and avid reader, especially of history.

## Education

- 2009 **Ph.D., Computer Science**, University of Cambridge  
Dissertation: [Stage scheduling for CPU-intensive servers](#)
- 2005 **Diplom Informatiker**, Technische Universität Berlin  
Diplomarbeit: [Staged design for highly concurrent web servers](#)
- 2003 **B.Sc., Computer Science**, Oklahoma State University Tulsa

## Computer Skills

<b>Programming</b>	Java; Python; TypeScript; C++; C; SQL; C#; JavaScript
<b>Frameworks</b>	Thrift; Protobufs; Guice; Guava; Shiro; jQuery; Bootstrap; Knockout.js; Backbone.js
<b>Databases</b>	ElasticSearch; MongoDB; Redis; SQLite; H2; SQL Server
<b>Platforms</b>	Windows; Debian- and RedHat-based Linux; OS X
<b>IDEs and tools</b>	Visual Studio; Eclipse; IntelliJ; Visual Studio Code; Maven; CMake
<b>Revision control</b>	Git; Subversion

## Projects

### 6/2017 – ongoing **Full-stack development for Motivated Cognition experiment**

Columbia University / New York, NY USA and remote

Motivated Cognition is a psychology research experiment investigating the effects of cognitive bias on our consumption of information online.

- Activities Created a complete web application from high-level requirements, using TypeScript, Knockout.js, and webpack on the frontend; Java with microservices, YAML configuration, and MongoDB persistence on the backend; generated code for models and services in TypeScript and Java; Jenkins continuous integration; and Docker deployment

Translated screens from a graphic designer into pixel-perfect CSS and HTML

Integrated with Mechanical Turk for subject recruitment

### 4/2016 – ongoing **Full-stack development for Polygon Analytics**

Polygon Analytics Ltd. / Edinburgh, UK (remote only)

- Activities Designed and implemented proprietary software in C++ and Python

**9/2014 – ongoing Software architecture and full-stack development for the Notablist email newsletter search engine**

New York, NY USA and remote

Notablist indexes millions of email newsletters from hundreds of thousands of publishers and provides both a search interface and real-time change alerts to users.

**Activities** Backend prototyping in Python:

- Classified signup responses and mapped form inputs using numpy/scipy/scikit-learn

Backend production rewrite in Java:

- Generated Python JSON-RPC clients, Python command line tools, Java service interfaces and abstract implementations, and Java JSON-RPC servlets from Thrift interface and data structure definitions
- Implemented Guice-injected Java micro-services that encapsulated MongoDB collections; ElasticSearch indices; Redis databases; S3 buckets; screenshotting and signups with Selenium; SpamAssassin checking; logstash queries; Stripe integration; Drip (CRM) integration; MailChimp, SparkPost, and SendGrid transactional email posting; etcd locking; DNS and whois querying and parsing; DMOZ category and Alexa and Quantcast rank lookups
- Designed and implemented a scalable distributed system for processing Common Crawl WARC records and submitting newsletter signups
- Reported metrics to InfluxDB
- Created administrative user interface in Vaadin
- Set up Jenkins continuous integration
- Deployed with Docker+Compose on real hardware

Frontend:

- Assumed responsibility for a three year-old Bootstrap+Backbone.js+Marionette.js code base in JavaScript
- Incrementally migrated code to TypeScript with Knockout.js
- Added Selenium (Java) browser tests

**7/2012 – ongoing Full-stack development of the TeraScript product suite**

Tronics Software LLC / Stirling, NJ USA and remote

TeraScribe and TeraScript Server are a visual development environment and server-based runtime for TeraScript Action Files (TAFs), TeraScript Class Files (TCFs), and the TeraScript Markup Language (TML). TML is a markup-based web application language, similar in spirit to ColdFusion. TAF and TCF are ways of organizing TML.

**Activities** TeraScript Server 8:

Rewrote TeraScript 7 in Java while maintaining strict backwards compatibility:

- Grammar-based compilers for TML and associated little languages using ANTLR
- Tree interpreters for TML, TAF, and TCF
- Versioned OSGi bundles with Maven and Apache Felix
- Library of standard functions, primitive types, and collections with extensive unit tests

TeraScript Server 7 (formerly Witango Server):

Reorganized, cleaned up, and modernized a 17-year-old C++ code base and addressed numerous bugs and feature requests for the server's first major release in over two years; now in maintenance releases

Eliminated diverging platform-specific build systems (on Win32, Linux, and OS X) in favor of CMake and ported the code base to Win64 using Visual C++ 2012

Designed and implemented a SQL generator that visits dialect-specific trees of SQL-99 constructs

TeraScribe 8:

Reorganized and cleaned up a 10-year-old Java Swing code base in order to add a number of features to the code editor, including autocomplete and syntax highlighting, and refit the data source management interface to use JDBC metadata

Subcontracting:

Debugged production installations of TeraScript Server 7 and 8

Developed cross-platform (Android, iOS, Windows) mobile app prototype with Xamarin Forms and C#

4/2017 – 5/2017	<p><b>Drug name comparison project</b>  PSW Applied Research Inc. / Toronto, ON and remote</p> <p>Activities Implemented Kondrak’s phonetic alignment and similarity algorithm (ALINE) and a bigram-based orthographic algorithm (BI-SIM) as a PostgreSQL C extension</p> <p>Built a JavaScript demo application using jQuery and Bootstrap</p>
4/2014 – 7/2014	<p><b>Application development for the <u>Muninn Project</u> under contract to the Library and Archives Canada</b>  PSW Applied Research Inc. / Toronto, ON and remote</p> <p>Activities Created a command-line Java application for transcribing handwritten World War I medical records from the Canadian Expeditionary Force (<a href="http://blog.muninn-project.org/node/79">http://blog.muninn-project.org/node/79</a>) using Amazon's Mechanical Turk crowdsourcing service: pre-cut images for groups of lines, redundancy between workers, artificially-introduced mistakes and edit distances to detect cheating, and feedback to workers</p>
3/2013 – 7/2013	<p><b>Back end development for <u>Txtmrkt</u>, a marketplace for digital publications</b>  Txtmrkt LLC / New York, NY USA and remote</p> <p>Activities Designed and implemented a Model-View-Controller-based Java web application with Guice-injected microservices backed by Amazon S3</p> <p>Authenticated and authorized users with Shiro</p> <p>Integrated co-branded order placement and payment notification with Amazon's Flexible Payments Service</p>
12/2011 – 6/2012	<p><b>Haystack: performance monitoring platform for online businesses</b>  GrokIO LLC / New York, NY USA</p> <p>Activities Designed an agent (Python) and manager (Java with Spring Security+MVC and Guice) architecture for gathering, storing, and querying time series data and metadata</p> <p>Implemented time series databases from scratch using relational tables and memory-mapped files</p> <p>Wrote RFC 3986 grammar-based URL and URN parsers using Ragel (Java) and pyparsing (Python)</p> <p>Generated service interfaces in Java and Python with custom Protocol Buffers compiler plugins</p> <p>Coded agent plugins in Java and Python for discovering and fetching metric metadata and data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open source monitoring systems: Nagios, Ganglia, collectl, Graphite</li> <li>• Open source server software: Apache httpd, nginx, MySQL, memcached, MongoDB, JMX</li> <li>• Platform interfaces: procs, sysctl, WMI, SNMP</li> <li>• Third party APIs: Google Analytics, MailChimp, Spring Social, Amazon CloudWatch</li> </ul> <p>Supervised user experience and graphic designers in Ukraine</p> <p>Implemented a client-side user interface with the Google Web Toolkit, starting from wireframes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architectural best practices: Model-View-Presenter; event bus; activities and places</li> <li>• Custom widgets: date time range picker, cell table pager, search box, selection tree</li> <li>• .war deployment to Tomcat with Maven</li> </ul>
8/2011 – 12/2011	<p><b>Back end development for <u>Birchbox</u>, a personalized subscription service for women's cosmetics samples</b>  Birchbox Inc. / New York, NY, USA</p> <p>Activities Designed, implemented, documented, and successfully deployed warehouse integration code in Java (back end) and PHP (administrative front end)</p> <p>Wrote a Thrift compiler and targets in Python+pyparsing to generate Java and PHP from Thrift definitions</p> <p>Produced ad hoc business reports from MySQL using Java and Jython</p>
5/2011 – 8/2011	<p><b>Benchmarking server stacks in order to accurately provision EC2 instances at <u>Chartbeat</u>, a real-time web analytics software-as-a-service provider</b>  Chartbeat Inc. / New York, NY, USA</p> <p>Activities Synthesized a realistic benchmark for front-line web servers from statistical analyses of nginx access logs</p> <p>Significantly reduced network bandwidth and latency on production servers with targeted optimizations</p>

Wrote Python scripts for analyzing Ganglia RRDs, replaying HTTP request streams, harnessing httpperf

**10/2010 – 4/2011** **File I/O library for X10, a type-safe, parallel object-oriented language for high-productivity computing**  
IBM Research / Hawthorne, NY, USA

Activities Designed, implemented, tested, and documented a new low-overhead, buffer-based file library for X10:

- inspired by POSIX, FUSE, Boost.Filesystem, and Java NIO.2
- X10 and native code for the Java and C++ source-to-source compilation backends
- Scatter/gather I/O, aligned buffers, memory-mapped files, advisory locking

Microbenchmarked the X10 runtime

**1/2009 – 7/2010** **LXFS: fast and reliable data storage for High-Performance Computing clusters**  
NEC High Performance Computing Europe / Stuttgart, Germany

Activities Wrote Python and bash scripts for configuring, deploying, and administrating LXFS installations: Lustre and Inet configuration (MGS, MDS, OSS, clients); redundant NFS exports; Nagios, Ganglia, and collectl monitoring; Heartbeat/Linux-HA services for failover; Promise RAID devices; network interfaces (Infiniband, bonded Ethernet)

Finished two major LXFS releases, used in numerous deployments

Debugged and resolved issues in production parallel file systems

**1/2009 – 7/2010** **XtreemFS: a distributed and replicated file system for wide-area networks**  
NEC High Performance Computing Europe / Stuttgart, Germany

Activities Designed, implemented, and tested the XtreemFS userspace client:

- FUSE and Dokan (Windows FUSE-like library) interfaces
- Multiple pipelined ONC-RPC streams to a single server
- Staged, event-driven concurrency for robust performance under load
- Close-to-open file caching with per-file page sizes
- Automatic failover between file replicas on timeout
- Heavily benchmarked under different I/O loads (iobench, dbench, metadata benchmarks)

Finished two major XtreemFS releases, both used in production

Collaborated with academic and industry partners in Europe, Israel, and China

## Teaching Experience

**2/2014 – 4/2014** **SQL Fundamentals and Python Fundamentals workshops for Ph.D. students and post-doctoral researchers in the natural sciences**  
Iowa State University / Ames, IA USA

**2002 – 2004** **Technical supervision of Masters' theses**  
Oklahoma State University / Tulsa, OK USA

**1/2002 – 3/2002** **Mathematics tutoring for 6th and 7th graders**  
Tulsa Public Schools / Tulsa, OK USA

## Personal

**Languages** English (native); German (fluent)

**Hobbies** Reading (history, biography, popular science); photography; Tai chi; open source software