

# Caius Brindescu, PhD

Corvallis, OR  
[caius@brindescu.com](mailto:caius@brindescu.com)  
[github.com/caiusb](https://github.com/caiusb)  
[linkedin.com/in/caius-brindescu/](https://linkedin.com/in/caius-brindescu/)

## About Me

---

Principal Engineer with 15+ years of experience in building distributed systems and data infrastructure. Expert in back-end development, cloud architecture, and developer productivity, with a track record of leading cross-team initiatives and delivering measurable reliability and performance improvements. Skilled at debugging and resolving complex technical challenges across diverse technologies. Outside of software engineering, I design and 3D-print practical solutions, read widely, and experiment with new technologies.

## Experience

---

### Etleap

*Principal Engineer (November 2024 – Present)*

*Member of Technical Staff (September 2019 – November 2024)*

- Led cross-team initiative spanning 3 development teams, **raising build reliability from 45% → 90%**.
- Owned and operated **AWS infrastructure** serving dozens of customers; developed zero-downtime upgrade process improving security posture.
- Worked with **Hadoop, Spark, Flink, AWS, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Redshift, Snowflake, Delta Lake** and **dbt**.
- Designing and maintaining **Terraform** templates for private customer deployments.
- Published **4 blogs** posts co-authored with senior AWS engineers.
- Worked with new customers (start-ups and enterprise) during trials and on-boarding to ensure that the product met their technical needs.
- Migrated the build system to gradle from sbt to improve reliability. This involved adapting over **50 different modules** to use gradle.
- Developed demos and demo scripts to be shown at trade shows (AWS reInvent, Snowflake Summit, Gartner D&A).

### Oregon State University

*Graduate Assistant (August 2013 – June 2019)*

During my time as a PhD student I worked as a Research and Teaching Assistant.

- Developed research tooling used by multiple projects and **published in peer-reviewed venues (6 conference, 2 journal)**
- Taught Software Engineering, Software Testing, Web Development, Operating Systems and Empirical Software Engineering, teaching classes of over 100 students.
- Instructor of Record for Software Engineering and Web Development classes (100+ students), redesigning course curriculum to improve student engagement and outcomes.

### Etleap

*Software Engineering Intern (June – September 2018)*

- Worked on developing and maintaining the back-end code, including REST APIs, third party integrations or job orchestration.
- Developed 3 proof-of-concept integrations with external services.

### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*Graduate Teaching Assistant (August 2012 – August 2013)*

Worked a teaching assistant for Software Engineering 1 and 2, under the guidance of Ralph Johnson.

## Movidius (acquired by Intel)

*Software Engineer (March – July 2012)*

Coordinated a team of 4 developers to integrate an existing compiler, debugger and virtual board simulator into the Eclipse IDE.

## Education

---

### PhD in Computer Science

*Oregon State University, Corvallis OR, 2020*

Research in software engineering and developer productivity; published 8 peer-reviewed papers, 6 in conference proceedings and 2 in journals.

### BS in Computer Science

*Universitatea Politehnica “Timișoara”, Timișoara, Romania, 2011*

Course work included Software Engineering, Computer Architecture, Distributed Systems and Compilers.

## Skills

---

### Programming Languages

- **Core:** Java (15+ years).
- **Proficient:** Scala, Python, Bash, R.
- **Working knowledge:** TypeScript, C, C++, JavaScript, Go, Smalltalk

### Frameworks and technologies

- **Data & Streaming:** Hadoop, Spark, Flink
- **Databases and SQL:** MySQL, PostgreSQL, Redshift, Snowflake, Databricks DeltaLake, dbt
- **Infra & DevOps:** AWS (certified), Terraform, Ansible, Kubernetes, Bash
- **Web/Apps:** Play Framework, Spring Boot, Flask

### Leadership and Communication

- Authored peer-reviewed papers, technical blogs (including **4 AWS-published Big Data blog posts**), and internal documentation.
- Led cross-team initiatives (build system, database migrations, Terraform modules).
- Managed enterprise customer trials and on-boarding.
- Directed research projects and mentored graduate/undergraduate students.
- Scoped and delivered new product features from design to production.