

Caner Derici, PhD

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Technical Skills

Areas of Expertise: Compilers & Programming Languages · Distributed Systems · Machine Learning
Languages: Go · C/C++ · Python · Racket/Scheme · LLVM · Java · SQL · JavaScript
Cloud: Kubernetes · AWS · GCE · Terraform · LXD · Docker
API, DB & Misc: REST · gRPC · DQLite · MongoDB · PostgreSQL · Git · CI/CD · GH Actions · Jenkins

Education

Ph.D., [Indiana University, Bloomington](#), Computer Science, Compilers & Programming Languages 2015 – 2025
Dissertation: [Self-Hosting Functional Programming Languages on Meta-Tracing JIT Compilers](#)
M.Sc., [Boğaziçi University](#), Computer Science, Machine Learning & Natural Language Processing 2012 – 2015
B.Sc., [Bilgi University](#), Computer Science 2005 – 2010

Experience

Canonical USA REMOTE, US
Software Engineer II (L4), Enterprise Cloud Engineering, Juju team 2021 – 2024

- Developed and maintained Juju (see Projects below) as part of a 10-engineer team. Used Go, and Python.
- Improved reliability and fault tolerance by implementing edge machine services on relational DQLite back-end, migrating from NoSQL MongoDB (e.g., [sample PR](#)).
- Owned client libraries for three years—[python-libjuju](#), [Terraform Juju Provider](#); doubled active users and maintained a steady release cadence.
- Took part in roadmap planning, coordinated cross-team efforts; mentored junior engineers, and improved hiring by creating a structured Juju-Bootcamp process that cut ramp-up from 6 months to 1 month for new engineers.

Indiana University IN, US
Research Assistant, Course Instructor 2015 – 2021

- Independently took an ambiguous, uncharted problem from zero to working product; built the first-ever tracing JIT compiler that is a full-scale runtime for a self-hosting, production-grade language. Conducted a full performance investigation and designed new optimization algorithms (see [Pycket](#) below).
- Taught data structures & algorithms, compilers, virtual machines, and domain specific languages.

Asseco SEE Group
Software Engineer 2010-2012

- International software company developing virtual payment platforms for e-commerce platforms. I developed and delivered 3 virtual point-of-sale projects in 1 year. Used Java, Apache Tomcat, Spring, Mercurial, Jira.

Selected Projects

Juju

A large scale, eventually consistent distributed orchestration system, used by ~200 companies globally for managing cloud workloads on any infrastructure (Kubernetes or otherwise) across various cloud providers (e.g., AWS, GCE), capable of handling 1000+-node workloads with 99.9% availability. See Canonical above for my contributions.

Terraform Juju Provider

A Terraform provider that enables integration with Juju while managing Terraform environments. I implemented new resources and features (e.g., [manual provisioning on AWS](#)), migrated the provider from the sdk2 to the provider framework (e.g., [sample PR](#)), and maintained release cadence of new versions. All in Go.

Pycket: A meta-tracing JIT compiler as full-scale self-hosting Racket

PhD thesis project. Developed and maintained Pycket for over five years, designing the compiler to bootstrap the entire Racket language on a meta-tracing JIT backend. Contributed to a new IR (linklets, see publications) for a more portable Racket. Built [performance analysis tools](#) and [formalisms](#) to improve meta-tracing efficiency. Implemented run-time optimizations, preemption for threads, full FFI for data structures, and primitives.

Rax: A full-stack Racket to x86_64 nanopass compiler

Implemented all the passes (e.g., closure conversion, register allocation, code-gen, etc.), along with garbage collection. Developed optimizations, such as inlining, loop-invariant code motion, and proper tail-calls.

HazirCevap (Witty): A closed domain question answering system for high school students

Government funded large scale question answering system. M.Sc. thesis on NLP. Led the R&D team (3 faculties, 4 grad students). Developed a Hidden Markov Random Field model for question analysis, and relevance metrics for information retrieval and response generation (see publications). Full stack in Python and JS.

Last compiled on September 20, 2025

Selected Publications

- Flatt M., Derici C. Dybvig R. K., Keep A. et. al. "Rebuilding racket on chez scheme (experience report)", ICFP'19
- Derici C. et. al. "A closed-domain question answering framework using reliable resources to assist students" Natural Language Engineering'18
- Derici C. et. al. "Question analysis for a closed domain question answering system", CICLING'15
- Derici C. et. al. "Rule-based focus extraction in Turkish question answering systems", SIU'14
- Başar R. E., Derici C., and Şenol Ç. "World With Web: A compiler from world applications to JavaScript". Technical Report, Scheme and Functional Programming Workshop'09

Awards & Scholarships

- Scholarship and award for a project on teaching natural languages to hearing impaired, 2014.
 - Full Scholarship for PhD, 2015-2020
 - Full Scholarship for MSc, 2012
 - Full Scholarship for BSc, 2005-2010
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