

## **Alison Chaiken, PhD.**

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Citizenship: USA



### **Summary**

Systems programmer and Linux Kernel engineer for embedded devices. Code since 2012 has been for vehicles. Passionate cyclist and music lover.

### **Work History**

#### **2020-: Staff Software Engineer at [Aurora Innovation](#),**

Mountain View CA

Made contributions to control of embedded network switches (Microchip Sparx5 and BCM53570) in C++ with ARM 64-bit and 32-bit processors. Developed [device driver for a U-Blox Zed-F9 GNSS](#) in C plus GNSS-manager in C++. Wrote monitoring tools for realtime Linux kernel in C++. Principally responsible for Linux kernel on the NUMA x86\_64 main board. Contributed to functional safety analysis in JAMA (ISO-26262). Solved problems with [Kernel RCU](#) and PCIe-connected NVME.

#### **2016-2020: Vehicle Integration Engineer at [Peloton Technology](#), Mountain View CA**

Wrote OTA and LTE modem firmware in C++. Developed accelerator pedal emulator via I2C-controlled PWM interface. Shared responsibility for the U-Boot bootloader and realtime Linux kernel for a TI TDA2 32-bit ARM processor. [Contributed to upstream U-Boot](#) in C. Developed accelerator-pedal emulator via I2C-controlled PWM.

#### **2012-2016: Automotive Software Engineer at [Mentor Embedded Software Division](#), California and Deutschland**

Wrote Linux kernel device drivers for the Freescale i.MX6 Platform as part of Bosch's automotive project. Co-authored a new OpenMAX GStreamer Plugin for Qualcomm's APQ8084 in C. Worked onsite in Niedersachsen and Baden-Württemberg for 8 Months.

**2010-2011: Engineer, Nokia Mobility Solutions, Sunnyvale CA**  
Created CES Demos in Qt/QML that featured new Nokia phones.

**2009-2010: Software Engineer at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Menlo Park CA**  
Created a synoptic display for accelerator operators. Wrote [RTEMS](#) controls for an RF power supply.

**1997–2009: Member Technical Staff at Hewlett-Packard Labs, Palo Alto CA**

**1992–1997: Member Technical Staff at Lawrence Livermore National Lab**

**1989–1992: National Research Council Postdoc at Naval Research Lab, Washington DC**

Worked more than 20 years on design and construction of automated test systems for advanced thin film materials, with applications in magnetic and optical data storage plus printed electronics and landmine detection.

## Education

2015- German study at [Goethe Institut](#) San Francisco and [German International School of Silicon Valley](#).

1983–1988: PhD in Physics from **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**.

**Professional:** Speaker at [Embedded Open Summit](#), [linux.conf.au](#), [Embedded Linux Conference](#), [Southern California Linux Expo](#), [Automotive Linux Summit](#) etc. Presented a LISA Conference short course on [systemd](#). 8 granted patents and more than 30 referred technical papers. Member, [SAE](#) and [ACCU](#). Contributor to [Real Time Linux](#) [wiki](#).

**Skills:** C++17, C, Linux Kernel, GCC/GDB/clang, git, Bazel, GoogleTest, protobuf, Yocto, JAMA, JIRA, bash, U-Boot, [systemd](#), [bpftrace](#).

**Languages:** Deutsch Sprachdiplom Niveau B2. Native English speaker.