

# Vladilen Kozin

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Clojure, Racket, Emacs Lisp, Guile Scheme, TCL, Redex, OMeta, etc  
UK Tier 1 [Exceptional Talent visa](#) holder  
Fall'13 [Recurse Center](#) alum  
Former Yandex

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## Corporate ladder

Dec 2019-now

*Director and sole proprietor* at Fullmeta Capital Ltd (London, UK)

Contracting gigs with startups and financial institutions.

Jul-Dec 2019

*Senior Programmer* at [All Street Research](#) (London, UK)

Building cognitive assistant for investment research in Clojure(Script). Front and back, AI, NLP, and more buzzwords here.

Apr-Nov 2017

*Senior Programmer* at [Droit](#) (London, UK)

Same as before but with obligatory daily commute.

2015-2017

*Programmer/Consultant* at [Droit](#) (remote and New York, USA)

Building an expert system for compliant trading. Sneaking Clojure(Script) into unsuspecting financial giants. On any given day I could be designing DSLs, implementing compilers, parsers, rule-based engines, putting together simple browser-based GUIs and whatever else the startup life would have me do.

2014-2015

*Programmer* at [Yandex](#) (Moscow, Russia).

Officially a member of *Search Interfaces Development Infrastructure* group, but mostly I wrote backend tools for source to source compilation - engines to write your template engines. If I were lucky and did it right frontend developers would get to use my work and take all the credit.

2009-2011

*Equity Derivatives & Structured Products Sales* at [Renaissance Capital](#) (Moscow, Russia).

2007-2009

*EM Structured Solutions and Derivatives Sales* at [Barclays Capital](#) (London, UK).

## Sample Projects

Emacs Lisp

*Author* of [multi.el](#) - all things multiple dispatch for Emacs Lisp: type driven dispatch with *protocols*, ad-hoc polymorphism with *multi-methods*, pattern-matching and destructuring without noise with *multi-patterns*, case-dispatch with *multi-defuns*, benchmarking with *multi-benchmarks*.

## Racket

*Author of [tilda](#) an opinionated threading macro with self-documenting hole-markers, clause level keyword options and an implicit escape continuation.*

*Author of [racket/tables](#) that extends Racket with first class Lua-style meta-tables for prototypal inheritance, generic associative API and more. Watch my [RacketCon'19](#) talk.*

*Author of [ponzi](#) - the beginnings of a clever Scheme for a discerning smart contract builder. WIP but it does implement the Ethereum Virtual Machine close enough to the Yellow Paper.*

*Author of [ometa-racket](#), a mostly complete Racket implementation of [OMeta](#) - OO pattern-matching language that extends PEGs with ability to handle left-recursive rules and match structured data.*

*Author of [skish](#), a mostly futile attempt at porting Olin Shivers' wonderful [scsh](#) to Racket. scsh is a non-interactive Unix shell embedded within Scheme (originally Scheme48).*

*Contributor to Racket the language.*

## Clojure

*Author of [fullmeta web](#) - Dynamic language deserves a dynamic web “framework”: load www routes from Clojure namespaces “on the fly” - CGI style; render HTML and CSS. Utility-first local CSS vs selector-targeting is a stupid dichotomy - allow both! Other goodies: multi methods with per-position :default; helpful prelude functions, etc.*

*Author of several closed-source products: FpML message parser, financial derivatives classifier based on ISDA taxonomies, legal annotation tools, PDF and XML content extractor and transformation tools.*

*Author of [bot](#) - a crypto-currency arbitrager that could talk to several exchanges including Bitfinex and GDAX. It uses Clojure Spec to parse and validate protocol messages and [aleph](#) for async communication and concurrency.*

*Author of [playrum](#) - just getting the taste for React in ClojureScript.*

*Contributor to [seqexp](#), regular expressions for Clojure sequences.*

## Guile Scheme

*I use GNU Guix OS for bit-for-bit reproducible packaging, containerized dev work and deployments. My entire OS and dev environments can be instantiated from the Scheme code I write.*

*Unless you're Google-scale I am positive I can do better than k8s and opaque Docker images with a dash of Scheme code.*

## JavaScript

*Author of [bemhtml-syntax](#), a syntax converter for [BEMHTML](#) - an XSLT inspired templating language - part of [BEM methodology](#) of frontend development.*

Author of [bemhtml-source-convert](#), a *best effort* compiler from [BEMHTML](#) templates to [BH](#) templates.

Author of [xjst-more](#), an [XJST](#)-based compiler for BEMHTML templates that facilitates incremental compilation of templates potentially on the Client. WIP.

Contributor to [ometa-js](#), a JavaScript implementation of [OMeta](#).

Contributor to [bem-xjst](#), XJST-based compiler for BEMHTML templates.

## Public Speaking

Sep 2019

[talk](#) at [Strange Loop'19](#) (St. Louis, USA)

Jul 2019

[talk](#) at [RacketCon'19](#) (Salt Lake City, USA)

## Formal education

2004–2006

[Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics](#) (Moscow, Russia)  
*PhD track in Applied Mathematics, dropped out*

2004

[New Economic School](#) (Moscow, Russia)  
*MS in Economics track with full scholarship, dropped out*

1999-2004

[Lomonosov Moscow State University](#) (Moscow, Russia)  
*MS in Theoretical Mechanics and Applied Mathematics.*

## Autodidacticisms

2018

Language-oriented Programming and Language Building  
[The Racket Summer School 2018](#) (Salt Lake City, USA)

2017

[Redex](#) for designing operational semantics  
[The Racket Summer School of Semantics and Languages](#) (Salt Lake City, USA)

While targeted at PL PhDs a bunch of us non-academic types had been admitted. Learnt to create languages quickly and back them up with runnable reduction semantics - what's not to like?

2015

[Introduction to Probability](#). [[Certificate](#) 94%]  
MIT for edX

Because it's awesome.

2014

[Paradigms of Computer Programming 1](#), [[Certificate1](#) 94%]  
[Paradigms of Computer Programming 2](#), [[Certificate2](#) 97%]  
Université catholique de Louvain for edX

How I was introduced to concurrency, multi-paradigm programming and delightful paradigms that so far seem to exist only in academic setting. Taught by [Peter Van Roy](#) and is based on his classical [Concepts, Techniques, and Models of Computer Programming](#).

2014

[Hardware/Software Interface](#), [[Certificate](#) 89.6%]  
University of Washington for Coursera

How I was introduced to systems programming. Essentially an Introduction to Computer Systems course as taught at Carnegie Mellon with the same course-load and text [Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective](#) by Bryant and O'Hallaron.

2012

[Programming Languages](#), [[Certificate](#)]  
Brown University

How I was introduced to creating PLs. Taught by [Shriram Krishnamurthi](#) based on his wonderful [PLAI](#) text. [My solutions](#) - a sequence of interpreters for progressively more complex languages: all the way to OOP, CPS transforms and type checkers.

2012

[How to Design Programs](#) by Matthias Felleisen et al.

How I was introduced to programming. [Assorted solutions to HtDP](#).

## Languages

Russian, English

What you'll hear me speak on Zoom calls.

Clojure

What I get to use on the job most often.

Racket

Used to be my favorite, but I tend to choose simpler tools now.

Emacs Lisp

Unavoidable Lisp for a pro Emacs user. Surprisingly fun & productive.

Guile Scheme

Unavoidable Scheme for a pro Guix user. Lively.

JavaScript

Wrote fair amount, mostly backend Node.js. I prefer ClojureScript.

TCL

Happy parallel universe with Shell scripts gone. Deserves more praise

OMeta

Extensive experience writing parsers with complex and context dependent grammars.

Redex

Can implement executable semantics for your pet-language or DSL.

Java

Enough to write a Clojure wrapper with necessary bindings.

C

Enough to pass a systems programming class but not nearly enough to actually use it.

Factor, OCaml, Lua, Rust, Shen, Erlang (via LFE)

Toyed with but never used in earnest. I [ported](#) some good ideas from Lua to Racket and contributed a patch to [racer-rust](#). Would love to use Erlang via LFE professionally.

## Other tools

Managed and deployed OpenBSD and FreeBSD boxes but prefer Scheme code targeting GNU Guix. I programmed against Kafka, Elastic Search, Mongo, PG, SQLite. I am intimately familiar with Datomic and Datascript graph databases. I don't do YAML, Docker, k8s nor should you.

## On interviews

*NB UK/EU recruiters: I am expensive*

*NB recruiters: liaise this section with your client*

I hired and put together successful engineering teams from nothing. Interviewing is hard - I get it. That doesn't mean you should be throwing random puzzles at me, unless the job specifically calls for "tip of your fingers" algorithmic knowledge rather than asking Wikipedia. I encourage you to look at my code and pair program a feature or debug something in one of my current projects. I'll happily give you a choice of interesting problems we can work on. You'll get to see me program computers and I'll enjoy a feature or bugfix. Take home problems are fine, but must be paid for at my usual contracting rate.

## Activities and interests

Most of my activities and interests these days involve boxes with lights and buttons. Even so there were reports of me cycling, bouldering, surfing, roller-skating, skiing and more. Having owned a sports car I'll choose a bicycle every time.

Lived in the UK, US, Hungary, Spain and far more exotic places. Crossed the US from Mexico to Canada twice with the current state count of 19.

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