

## OBJECTIVE

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Utilize and advance my skills in language technology, software engineering and leadership to create solutions with high scale and value impact

## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. in Computer Science - Language Technology, 2009-Present**  
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

**M.S. in Computer Science - Language Technology, GPA 3.9 (2009)**  
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

**M.S. in Computer Science, GPA 4.0 (2004)**  
City University of New York, New York City, NY

**B.S. in Industrial Engineering, 1<sup>st</sup> in 80 (2001)**  
K.N. Toosi University, Tehran, Iran

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**CTO/Director of Information Systems, Visual Graphics Systems Inc., New York, NY**  
*Oct. 2004 – Present*

Managed and participated in design and implementation of technology solutions (software and hardware) to expand the business and create value. Company is one of US largest manufacturer of signs with 150+ employees, global outreach and around \$1M budget in IT/IS. My team consisted 6 engineers and below is the summary of over 20 projects that successfully completed:

- § Highly customized yet extensible customer shopping portals for the program products serving hundreds of users daily
- § Extension and redesign of menu publishing applications to link directly to Adobe product for lower production cost and higher accuracy
- § State-of-art custom network and application services availability monitoring applications with multiple nodes of control
- § Document management system that supports RDF type meta-data and is capable of managing large files (>1GB) on frequent basis. Led to increased customer satisfaction and reduced costs
- § Customization and integration of company's ERP system for various business needs and outside service providers and vendors (e.g., Verizon, FedEx and UPS)
- § Automatic IT help desk and customer assistance (with some speech capabilities)

*Additional responsibilities/accomplishments:*

- § Initiated an R&D division for enhancing the product development and improvement (analyzing trends, standards and application of new technologies) and providing technical consultation to management and others departments (e.g., laser cutting, digital printing)
- § Expanded the product offering to digital signage market with centrally and locally controlled network of displays playing various types of contents and customer requirements
- § Complete re-structure the department for optimal interaction with the rest of the company and client with defining and implementing standard procedures and protocol.
- § Standardized and managed the IT support for Mac/PC environment, server maintenance/upgrades. Deployed an overhaul of network infrastructure.

**Software Engineer**, Visual Graphics Systems Inc., New York, NY

*Oct. 2001 – Sep. 2004*

- § Designed and implemented the following applications:
  - Sign-O-Matic™: a desktop application for printing signs and menu listings (to date, more than 800 copies are sold and registered)
  - SignTrax™: a web-based project-tracking and control tool that combines capabilities of spreadsheets with other web based features (such as calendars and photos)
  - MenuMatic™: a web-based dynamic poster creation that generates PDF on-the fly. Used by many franchised customers (e.g., Subway) and over 10,000 orders received to date.
  - Various small applications to extend and improve job-shop production scheduling with many control interfaces and reports and full integration into the company's ERP system
- § Created a fully extensible and consolidated reporting system in Crystal Reports and SQL Server.
- § Redesigned the company's web site ([www.vgsonline.com](http://www.vgsonline.com)) and added a web builder tool with a full visualization of a custom product.
- § Designed and implemented a complete inventory system and product coding system.

**Founder and President**, ENIAC Group, Tehran, Iran

*Jan. 2000 – Jan. 2001*

- § Negotiated, designed and managed software projects for client companies such as interactive training programs, CRM and membership management application.

**Application System Analyst**, Ariaz Consulting Engineers, Tehran, Iran

*Sep. 1999 – Jan. 2001*

- § Technology consulting and analysis of requirement for software systems
- § Designed a system to catalog and outsource the automotive parts
- § Implemented a QA system based on ISO 9000

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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Graduate Research Assistant**, Carnegie Mellon University (2007–present)

- § Research on learning and automated information-gathering under uncertainty and extending the RADAR information elicitation module, supervised by Jaime G. Carbonell and Eugene Fink
- § Research on automatic extraction of facts about companies from newswire articles, supervised by Eric Nyberg
- § Research on information-extraction techniques for sentiment analysis, supervised by William Cohen
- § Developed STAT: an Open Source Machine Learning Framework for Text (available on SF.net)

**Graduate Research Assistant**, City University of New York (2005–2007)

- § Research on extracting lexical patterns in restaurant reviews and using them to improve summarization, supervised by Noemie Elhadad
- § Research on the latent semantic analysis and its applications to word sense disambiguation, supervised by Esther Levin

**Research Assistant**, Columbia University (2005–2007)

- § Research on the story segmentation of GALE multilingual broadcast news through extraction of novel lexical, acoustic and speaker features, supervised by Julia Hirschberg

**Research Assistant**, AT&T Research Lab, Florham Park, NJ (2005–2006)

- § Research on reducing the error of ASR and NLU modules of dialog systems by extracting useful features from dialog logs, supervised by Esther Levin and Mazin Rahim

## PUBLICATIONS

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- § Mehrbod Sharifi, Semi-supervised Extraction of Entity Attributes using Topic Models *Master's Thesis*, Committee: Eric Nyberg, Jaime G. Carbonell, William Cohen, 2009
- § Mehrbod Sharifi and William Cohen. Finding domain specific polar words for sentiment classification. *Language Technology Institute Student, Research Symposium*, 2008.
- § Alexander Carpentier, Mehrbod Sharifi, Eugene Fink, and Jaime G. Carbonell. Scheduling with uncertain resources: Learning to ask the right questions. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics*, 2008.
- § Andrew Rosenberg, Mehrbod Sharifi, and Julia Hirschberg. Varying input segmentation for story boundary detection in English, Arabic and Mandarin broadcast news. In *Proceedings of the Eighth Interspeech Conference*, pages 77–80, 2007.
- § Esther Levin, Mehrbod Sharifi, and Jerry Ball. Evaluation of utility of LSA for word sense discrimination. In *Proceedings of the NAACL Human Language Technology Conference*, pages 2589–2592, 2006.
- § Peter Brass and Mehrbod Sharifi. A lower bound for Lebesgue's universal cover problem. *International Journal of Computational Geometry and Applications*, 15(5), pages 537–544, 2005.

## AWARDS

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- § Siebel Scholarship (2009) awarded on the basis of academic performance and leadership qualities
- § Winner of Kharazmi Young Innovator Prize (2000, Iran) for developing software utility in C and x86 assembly

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- § Teaching Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University, Fall 2008: Computational Intelligence: Undergraduate CS course for integrating hardware and developing algorithms to make smarter real world objects (Instructors: Alan Black and Anatole Gershman)
- § Teaching Assistant, City University of New York, Spring 2004: Java Programming
- § Teaching Assistant, K.N. Toosi University, Spring 2000, Database Design
- § Tutoring for several high school math and physics course while in undergrad

## SKILLS

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- § *Programming*: C/C++, Java, Perl, Python, Matlab, R, C# .NET, VB .NET & 6, x86 Assembly
- § *Web*: ASP.NET & MVC, PHP, Ruby, JavaScript, Flash ActionScript
- § *Database*: MS SQL Server 2000/05/08 (database design, stored proc, admin), Postgres, Oracle 8/9, MySQL
- § *Graphics*: Photoshop, Illustrator, Premier, Flash, Director, After Effect, SilverLight
- § *Language Tools*: MinorThird, Weka, Cluto, SRILM, NLTK, OpenNLP, UIMA, SVMLight, Stanford Toolkit
- § *Other*: Linux Shell, XML web Services (REST, SOAP, WSDL, XSL, RDF, OWL, etc.), VBA for Microsoft Office), MS Project, AutoCAD, Crystal Reports XI, VoiceXML, ObjectiveC, Facebook FMBL/IFRAME/Connect, .NET (WPF, LINQ),
- § Fluent in Farsi and English, elementary German