

Paul V. Borza [paw:l v. 'bɔr,zɑ]

paul@borza.ro / +1 (425) 582-3080

About Rubik's cube aficionado. Hackathon lover with a passion for building data-driven products. Relentless creative thinker. Software engineer with a full-stack understanding of search engines.



Experience

Microsoft Corporation, Bing, Customer Experience Analytics
Senior Software Engineer, Technical Lead – *Bing Stability*
Software Engineer 2 – *User Experience, Data Mining, Insights and Stability*

Bellevue, Washington
Dec. 2014 – Present
Sep. 2012 – Dec. 2014

Lead the Bing Stability V-Team of 50+ engineers for the past two years and a half. Not only achieved but surpassed the commitments taken in front of Corporate Vice Presidents in five consecutive six-month milestones. Designed the Bing Stability metric to be a measurement of both relevance and engineering excellence. Coordinated and delivered technical fixes in the stack which improved the stability of Bing from 88% to >98%, on par with Google. Team redesigned load balancers, caching techniques, object stores, threshold/timeout-based algorithms, unstable features, classifiers and non-deterministic rankers.

9 patents filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office 10/2010 – 10/2016

Microsoft Search Technical Center Asia, Business Trip Beijing, China; 3/2015

Microsoft-wide Hackathon, **4th Prize** 2/2014

Microsoft-internal Bing Hackathon, **Mentor, 3rd Place** (out of 53) 11/2013

Microsoft-internal Bing Innovation Awards, **3rd Place** (out of 56) 10/2013

Microsoft-internal Bing Hackathon, **2nd Place** (out of 65) 7/2013

Microsoft-internal Bing Science Fair, **Best Business Value Winner** (out of 72) 5/2013

Microsoft-internal Bing Hackathon, **1st Place** (out of 93) 11/2012

Seattle Give Camp, Technical Volunteer Redmond, Washington; 10/2013

Microsoft Corporation, Bing, Image and Video Search Bellevue, Washington
Software Engineer 2 – *Instrumentation, Metrics and A/B Testing* Jul. 2010 – Sep. 2012

Microsoft-internal Bing Intern Hackathon, **Mentor, 3rd Place** 7/2012

Microsoft-internal Bing Hackathon, **Judge** 11/2011

Microsoft-internal Bing Hackathon, **1st Place** (out of 42) 6/2011

Microsoft University Careers, Eastern Europe Recruiting Events Bucharest, Romania and Sofia, Bulgaria; 2/2011

AnswerJoy, Massively Multiplayer Online Trivia Game Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Co-founder – *Full Stack Engineering* 2008 – 2010

Co-founded AnswerJoy, a massively multiplayer online trivia gaming platform. Featured on Microsoft.com as *Startup of the Day* on Nov. 13, 2009. Licensed, and later acquired, AnswerJoy was implemented in the Romanian market as the Illuminatus brand.

University of Siena, Interaction Design Department Siena, Italy
Workshop Speaker – *Designing Tangible User Interfaces* Apr. / Oct. 2009 and Feb. 2010

Microsoft Corporation, Bing Search, Image and Video Search Redmond, Washington
Software Engineer Intern (total of 50 international interns) – *Data Mining Internet Explorer Logs* Jul. – Sep. 2009

Jožef Stefan Institute, Center for Knowledge Transfer in Information Technologies Ljubljana, Slovenia
Software Engineer Intern – *Audio Indexing* Jul. – Sep. 2008

Google Summer of Code, Openmoko Inc. Apr. – Sep. 2008
Software Engineer Intern – *Recognizing Accelerometer-based Gestures*

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Microsoft Developer Network, Author, 4 Articles	4/2006 – 12/2007
Microsoft Imagine Cup, Worldwide Finalist in Software Design	Seoul, South Korea; 8/2007
Recruited and lead a team of four college students to win the national finals of Imagine Cup two years in a row, in 1 st and 2 nd year of college, representing Romania to the European and Worldwide finals. Pitched projects in front of judges worldwide.	
Microsoft Imagine Cup, National Finals 1st Place in Software Design	Timișoara, Romania; 5/2007
Microsoft Imagine Cup, Central and Eastern Europe Regional Finalist in Software Design	Maribor, Slovenia; 5/2006
Microsoft Imagine Cup, National Finals 1st Place in Software Design	Cluj-Napoca, Romania; 4/2006
Brooktrout Extreme Code Makeover Contest, 1st Place	3/2006
Siemens Program and System Engineering, Scholarship	11/2005 – 6/2006
Microsoft Imagine Cup, National Finals 3rd Prize in Software Design	Iași, Romania; 4/2005
Olympiad, National Finalist in Informatics	Galati, Romania; 3/2005
Unirea National Programming Contest, Participant	Focșani, Romania; 1/2005
Olympiad, National Finals 4th Prize in Informatics	Buzău, Romania; 4/2004
Component Source Speech Control Contest, 1st Place	6/2003
Olympiad, National Finalist in Informatics	Focșani, Romania; 4/2003
Ștefan Odobleja National Programming Contest, 2nd Place	Craiova, Romania; 4/2003

Side Projects

StartupSort, Data-driven Job Search Engine for Software Engineers	4/2015 – Present
Patented novel startup ranking algorithm which sorts startups by likelihood of becoming the next Facebook. Collects signals like size, funding, traffic, breaking news etc. on which machine learning techniques are applied to estimate future growth; built with nginx, Docker, Node.js, Elasticsearch, Redis and Scrapy. Search for jobs in booming startups: https://StartupSort.com	
CubeTutorial, How to Solve a Rubik's Cube in Chrome, Firefox or Internet Explorer	3/2014 – Present
Viola-Jones object detection, Hough transform, Canny edge detection and Sobel operator implemented in pure JavaScript; optimized for Chrome's V8 engine after discussing real-time optimization problems with Google engineers on Stack Overflow. The Haar cascade classifier was trained on 2,500 positive and 1,500 negative photos; reached 68% precision and 76% recall on a 24x24 window with a 13-stage Real AdaBoost classifier. See how fast it detects Rubik's cubes: https://CubeTutorial.com	

Education

Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca	Cluj-Napoca, Romania; 10/2008 – 7/2010
Master's Degree in Computer Science – <i>Major in Machine Learning</i>	GPA: 9.94; Rank: 1 (out of 12)
Continuous density hidden Markov models, self-organizing maps and Fourier transform implemented in C; reached 94% accuracy in recognizing gestures and walking patterns with accelerometers. https://go.borza.ro/gesture-recognition	
Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca	Cluj-Napoca, Romania; 10/2005 – 7/2008
Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science	GPA: 9.85; Rank: 2 (out of 85)

Technical Skills: big data, C#, Cosmos, CSS, data analysis, D3.js, Docker, Elasticsearch, Express.js, git, HTML, JavaScript, machine learning, Mathematica, nginx, Node, OpenCV, performance optimizations, PowerShell, PySpark, Python, rapid prototyping, React, React Native, Redis, regular expressions, SCOPE, Scrapy, SQL, TensorFlow, TypeScript; Vim.

Favorite Book Made to Stick: Why some ideas survive and others die

Favorite Quote If everybody is thinking alike, then no one is thinking. – *Benjamin Franklin*

Immigration Status Permanent Resident of the Unites States of America