Avtandil Kikabidze

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SUMMARY

Seventeen years of software engineering: systems that universities and national institutions run on, open-source developer tools installed more than three million times, and teams that build with AI coding agents.

SELECTED RESULTS

- Built Argus, the learning system of Ilia State University (about 17,000 students): took it over in 2012 as a system of two modules, built it out with one colleague, then rewrote it in full; installed it at the Business and Technology University and rebuilt it into Caucasus International University's own system.
- Created the PHP Telegram Bot library in 2015 and administer the project: 2.4 million installs, 4,018 stars on GitHub, used by 1,622 public repositories.
- Lead a team that took up AI coding agents in 2026: with the same two or three backend developers, commits a month rose from 89 to 529.
- Invited in 2023 to San Diego State University's main campus as the representative of Ilia State University, a partner in its US bachelor's degree programme in Georgia.

EXPERIENCE

Chief Software Engineer, Tbilisi State Medical University

Oct 2024 to present · Tbilisi, full time

- Lead the architecture and a team of five building the university's new learning platform, for about 8,600 active students.
- Wrote most of the backend (Laravel, PostgreSQL) and defined its infrastructure as code: eleven servers.
- Introduced code review standards and AI review; built the team's AI knowledge assistant (semantic search, cited answers).

Senior Software Engineer, BMS Applications, for SOCAR Georgia Petroleum

Feb 2019 to present · Tbilisi, part time

- Built the customer portal's backend, nearly all of it myself, for the Georgian fuel retail arm of Azerbaijan's state oil company.
- Integrations with financial systems; automated tests and release.
- Since 2026: build the customer loyalty platform in its team.

Consulting Software Architect, independent

Jan 2022 to present · Tbilisi

- Caucasus International University (more than 8,200 students): rebuilt Argus into the university's own learning system, designing it and writing most of it, and built its tuition billing system.
- Inex Group, a holding with a parcel carrier and a telecom service: architect of the rewrite of the carrier's system; wrote nearly all of its SMS gateway.
- PowerIT (2025-03 to 2026-11): advised a large engineering team on architecture.

Chief Software Engineer, Ilia State University

Sep 2018 to Sep 2024 · Tbilisi

- Led the architecture, the engineering standards and a team of up to 20 (developers, testers, designers, project managers).
- Built and ran Argus. In the two years before joining, kept the third version running and wrote most of the fourth.
- Designed the resource planning and billing systems and led the teams that built them; releases without downtime across more than 20 servers.

Senior Software Engineer, iMovies
Sep 2017 to Aug 2018 · Tbilisi

- Built search on Elasticsearch, wrote load tests with JMeter and reworked the legacy database of an online film site.

Software Engineer, Prezly
Sep 2016 to Aug 2017 · Leuven, Belgium (remote)

- Backend developer for a maker of software for public-relations teams, contracted through my own company.

Founder, LongiSoft
Sep 2016 to Aug 2017, and since May 2026 · Tbilisi; a US company since 2026

- Registered in 2016 as Longish Software.

Senior Software Engineer, ITDC
Jan 2012 to Aug 2016 · Tbilisi

- Designed, with the team, the company's content management platform, on which it built more than 30 websites for ministries, state agencies and companies, among them that of the Parliament of Georgia.
- Took over Argus and built it out with one colleague; worked on the payment system Smartivi.

Senior Software Engineer, WebSolutions
Jul 2009 to Dec 2011 · Tbilisi

- Developed, in a team, the news sites of Ambebi and InterPressNews, the video portal PalitraTV, the payment system UniPay and sites for many other clients.

Independent developer, own projects
Jan 2007 to Jun 2009 · Tbilisi

OPEN SOURCE

- PHP Telegram Bot, a PHP library for Telegram's Bot API: active again in 2026.
- CodeFormatter, AutoBackups and StringUtilities, plugins for the Sublime Text editor (2013): 383,535 installs.
- Twelve PHP packages: 2.86 million installs.
- 56 changes merged into 47 other public projects since 2013, among them Laravel, Monolog, Carbon and PHPMailer.

TOOLS FOR AI AGENTS

- nbg-rates-mcp: gives AI agents the official exchange rates of the National Bank of Georgia (npm, 2026).
- Plugins for the coding agent Claude Code; universal-ai-reviewer, a code reviewer that works with several AI models.

RECOGNITION AND SERVICE

- 2014: took part in developing Georgia's national vocational standard for Android development.
- About 2019: web design expert for WorldSkills Georgia.

EDUCATION

- Bachelor with Major in Engineering Sciences, Technical University of Georgia (today Georgian Technical University), Transport and Mechanical Engineering faculty, 2004 to 2008.
- Certificate in web programming, Ilia State University, 2008.

SKILLS

- PHP (Laravel, Symfony), Python, TypeScript (React, Node), Java; MySQL, PostgreSQL, Elasticsearch; Linux, Docker, Ansible, Terraform, AWS; automated release.
- AI: LLM agents with tools (MCP), retrieval-augmented generation, answer evaluation, AI code review, coding agents in team workflows; serving open models on own hardware (vLLM), speech synthesis and translation pipelines.

LANGUAGES

- Georgian (native), Russian (fluent, C1), English (professional, B2).