

Awais Athar

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Education

- **University of Cambridge** 2009 – 2014
PhD – Computer Science
 - Focus on Natural Language Processing/Computational Linguistics and Information Retrieval
 - Dissertation Topic: Sentiment Analysis of Scientific Citations
- **University of Cambridge** 2007 – 2008
MPhil – Computer Speech, Text and Internet Technology

Professional Experience

- **EMBL-EBI, Cambridge** 2015 – Present
Software Development Project Lead
 - Currently part of the Functional Genomics Development team which develops software for [ArrayExpress](#) and [BioStudies](#) – resources for biological datasets.
 - Responsible for architecture, development and support for the software solution based on Java/ Tomcat/ XML/Lucene/JQuery/BaseX.
- **Conrad Labs, Lahore** 2012 – 2015
Software Architect
 - Part of the engineering team of [Wisegate Inc.](#), an IT advisory social network for senior-level IT experts.
 - Responsible for requirement acquisition, architecture, development and support for the software solution based on Groovy/Grails/Hibernate/JQuery/MySQL/Lucene/EC2.
 - Worked on community detection and member matching using Apache Mahout and R.
 - Designed and developed the [Wisegate iOS application](#).
 - Integrated the Wisegate web application with Salesforce.
 - Involved in integration of the automated billing system using Recurly.
 - Designed and implemented an Amazon SQS/SES based solution for email notifications.
 - Developed REST API for cloud-based data archiving solution for [Axcient Inc.](#) using Python/C++ /Btrfs.
- **OrthoClear Pvt. Ltd., Lahore** 2005 – 2006
Associate Director, e-Business Solutions
 - One of the founding members of the core engineering team which designed and developed the complete technology infrastructure working at all levels from analysis to architecture.
 - Responsible for requirement acquisition from sales and marketing departments, impact analysis of the new projects, project management, resource allocation and scheduling of a team of about 20 people.
 - Carried out research and integration of various systems and devices (3D scanners, CNC, laser marking machines, machines barcode printers, scanners etc.) with the ERP and CRM systems used in the production process.
 - Managed the e-Business concerns particularly focusing on the architecture and implementation of the internationalized customer portal and online transactions using C#, ASP.NET and MS SQL Server.
 - Performed active monitoring and trouble shooting of the process flow and provided data analysis services for the production and marketing departments.
 - Managed and implemented the integration of the ERP system with multiple shipment companies, credit card transaction services and tax calculation services.
 - Involved in designing and implementing the CRM solution and its integration with the ERP system and telephony service providers. Also involved in designing and implementing the Inventory Control, Finance and Human Resource modules of the ERP system.
- **Algotrek Technology Consulting, Lahore** 2003 – 2006
Consultant
 - Worked on J2EE based web applications by which providers of orthodontic expertise can assist the less experienced in the diagnosis and prescription of orthodontic treatment.
 - Performed design, development, unit testing and bug fixing of the system using Struts and MS SQL Server.

- 2002 – 2003
FCW Consulting Inc., Lahore
Senior Software Engineer
 - Involved in development of customized portlets for the Siebel CRM solution running on Weblogic.
 - Worked on integration of WebSphere Portal Server with Siebel.
 - Designed and developed a product which focused on integrating the Microsoft Exchange server with multiple CRM systems (Siebel, Epiphany etc.).
 - Communicated with clients regarding requirement acquisition for customization and product demos.
- 2001 – 2002
CresSoft Pvt. Ltd., Lahore
Software Engineer
 - Worked on the Aspen Marketplace project which combined e-commerce Internet technology with advanced logistics to dramatically improve the procurement, sale and distribution of industrial chemicals.
 - Designed and implemented service components in the application framework as well as other shared modules using IBM DB2 and WebSphere Application Developer.
 - Conducted R&D on the IBM WebSphere Commerce Suite and its integrated components for B2C sites.
 - Developed a J2EE based online Library System.

Publications

- A. Athar, "[Sentiment analysis of scientific citations](#)", Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. UCAM-CL-TR-856, 2014.
- A. Athar and S. Teufel, "[Detection of implicit citations for sentiment detection](#)", in *Proc. of the Workshop on Detecting Structure in Scholarly Discourse*, Jeju, Republic of Korea. 2012
- A. Athar and S. Teufel, "[Context-enhanced citation sentiment detection](#)", *NAACL/HLT*, Montréal, Canada. 2012
- A. Athar, "[Sentiment analysis of citations using sentence structure-based features](#)", in *Proc. Of ACL*, Portland, US. 2011
- A. Raza, A. Athar and S. Nadeem, "[N-GRAM based authorship attribution in Urdu poetry](#)", in *Proc. of Conference on Language and Technology 2009 (CLT09)*, Lahore, Pakistan. 2009
- A. Athar and W. Q. Malik, "[Non-uniform temporal dispersion in indoor wideband channels](#)", in *Proc. IET Wideband Ultrawideband Sys. Tech.*, London, UK. 2008

Teaching Experience

- 2006 – 2015
FAST-NU, Lahore, Pakistan
Asst. Professor, Department of Computer Science
 - Taught graduate and undergraduate level computer science courses.
 - Co-supervised M.S. Thesis on "[Design & Development of an Automated Speech Recognition System for Urdu](#)".
- 2009 – 2012
University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
Supervisor
 - Guided MPhil students in developing a search engine and Question Answering system.
 - Conducted tutorial sessions for Information Retrieval and Natural Language Processing modules for undergraduate students.

Awards & Distinctions

- Commonwealth Scholar, Association of Commonwealth Universities. 2009-2012.
- Lady Noon Scholarship, University of Cambridge. 2007-2008.
- Cambridge Commonwealth Shared Scholarship, University of Cambridge. 2007-2008.
- Justice Akhlaq Hussain Medal, FAST-NU, Lahore.
- Merit Scholarship for 3 years, FAST-NU, Lahore.

Technical Skills

Languages: Java, C#, C++, SQL, ASP, PHP, XML, Groovy, Python, Visual Basic, HTML, CSS, JavaScript
Technologies, Frameworks, and APIs: J2EE, .NET, VTK, OpenGL, WEKA, CRF++, CoreNLP, JQuery, Grails, Struts
Databases: MySQL, DB2, SQL Server, Oracle, Oracle Berkeley DB, BaseX
Operating Systems: Microsoft Windows, *nix, DOS
Natural Languages: Urdu (native), English (fluent), Punjabi (fluent) and Hindi (conversational fluency)