

AARON J. RADER

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HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Full-stack development & MERN Stack experience using JavaScript (React, Node.js), Express, Python, C, and MongoDB to design, build, and deploy scalable web applications.
- Experience with AI Training & Evaluation (RLHF), including adversarial prompt engineering and fact-verification of complex reasoning chains.
- Experience implementing CI/CD pipelines using GitHub Actions and deploying applications to Microsoft Azure cloud environments.
- Strong technical problem-solving and troubleshooting skills with experience diagnosing software defects and improving application performance.
- Collaborative communicator with demonstrated conflict resolution and cross-functional teamwork capabilities.
- Proven leadership, training, and team coordination skills developed through 5+ years of logistics and military experience.

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

CERTIFICATIONS:

- NDG Linux Essentials

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES:

- JavaScript, Typescript, Python, C, C#, C++, HTML5, CSS3, SQL

WEB DEVELOPMENT:

- React, Node.js, Express.js, Prompt Engineering, Bootstrap, Tailwind CSS, REST APIs, Firebase

DATA SCIENCE & STORAGE:

- RLHF (LLM Optimization), Matplotlib, NumPy, JSON, XML, MySQL, Postgres, MongoDB

MANAGEMENT & TOOLS:

- Git, GitHub, npm, VS Code, CI/CD, Docker, Jest

CLOUD & OS:

- Microsoft Azure Windows, Linux, Unix

NETWORKING:

- Network configuration and troubleshooting fundamentals

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Web Developer for Flowerbudi

August 2025 – Present

Remote

- Perform comprehensive website maintenance, identifying and resolving software defects to enhance application stability and performance.
- Maintain and enhance production website functionality by identifying, diagnosing, and resolving software defects, resulting in a ~30% reduction in reported user bugs.
- Implement UI improvements and optimize front-end components to improve usability and performance.
- Develop new user-facing features based on client requirements, improving site capabilities and customer experience.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to translate business needs into technical solutions.

AI Training & Evaluation Fellow (Project Hedgehog) | Handshake AI Fellowship

October 2025 – December 2025

Remote

- Conducted rigorous evaluation and ranking of AI-generated responses to ensure factual accuracy and logical reasoning.
- Developed complex adversarial prompts to stress-test model capabilities and identify edge-case failures.
- Performed high-fidelity data annotation to improve RLHF training datasets for frontier AI labs.
- Develop new user-facing features based on client requirements, improving site capabilities and customer experience.
- Verified complex reasoning chains in technical fields, providing corrective feedback with citations for model alignment.

Warehouse Associate

November 2022 – Present

FedEx, Romeoville, IL

- Manage freight logistics and inventory tracking, consistently maintaining high accuracy standards for package handling.
- Coordinate loading and unloading operations to optimize team workflow.

Deck Crew / Medical Support

February 2022 – November 2022

United States Navy, USS Bainbridge (DDG-96), Norfolk, VA

- Executed ship maintenance and operations under strict protocols, ensuring mission readiness.
- Provided critical medical support to patients under the ship's doctor, demonstrating high-stakes teamwork and discipline.

Warehouse Associate

June 2021 – February 2022

Grainger, Minooka, IL

- Streamlined LTL (Less Than Truckload) operations and managed pallet shipments.
- Trained new hires in operational procedures to improve overall facility efficiency.

TECHNICAL PROJECTS

Playmatch | AI Powered Game Recommendation Engine

- MERN Stack Development: Architected a high-performance web application to manage and analyze large-scale video game libraries.
- Database & Schema Design: Engineered a MongoDB persistence layer using Mongoose to store enriched game metadata, enabling fast local lookups.
- AI & API Orchestration: Integrated Steam Web API and Google Gemini 2.0 LLM to process natural language prompts for personalized recommendations.
- Data Visualization Suite: Developed an interactive "Profile DNA" dashboard using Recharts to visualize library completion rates and genre distribution.
- Custom UI Architecture: Built a 3-column dashboard using CSS Grid and React Hooks, featuring a "Quick Picks" tag system with a 50+ term synonym mapping engine.
- **Technologies:** React, Node.js, Express, MongoDB, Google Gemini 2.0, Steam Web API, Recharts, CSS Grid.

Lewis Course Calendar Application | Lewis University

- Developed a course scheduling application as a key member of the development team.
- Implemented a structured Git development workflow (feature branching, pull requests, code reviews) to maintain code quality and support team collaboration.
- Architected a CI/CD pipeline using GitHub Actions to automate testing and deployment to Microsoft Azure.
- **Technologies:** React, Tailwind CSS, Firebase, Git, GitHub Actions, Microsoft Azure

Pet Adoption Web Application (Capstone Project)

- Engineered a full-stack web application that connects potential adopters with pets by integrating the Petfinder REST API.
- Developed a server-side application with Node.js to securely handle API authentication and optimize the processing of complex JSON search query logic.
- Designed a dynamic and responsive Single-Page Application (SPA) using React and Bootstrap to improve user engagement and ensure a seamless experience across both mobile and desktop devices.
- **Technologies:** React, Node.js, Bootstrap, Petfinder REST API

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
Lewis University, Romeoville, IL

August 2025
GPA: 3.57/4.0

Associates in Applied Science, Computer Programming, with Honors
Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL

May 2025
GPA: 3.27/4.0

Associates in Arts, with Honors
Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL

May 2025
GPA: 3.23/4.0

Associates in Science
Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL

August 2021
GPA: 3.05/4.0