

RAPHAEL RATO

COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATE



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Pretoria



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PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

Computer Science graduate with a strong foundation in software development, problem-solving, and systems thinking. Experienced in real-world technical environments, including freelance security system installations and team leadership roles. Proficient in core programming languages and passionate about building reliable, efficient software solutions. Eager to contribute to innovative development teams and grow as a professional software developer.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Technician

Skynatics Security Technology, Centurion | 2021

- Security systems installer and support technician for CCTV and alarm systems.
- Assisted with the logistics, general support and repair of security equipment.
- Advised clients on optimal equipment placement and system setup for maximum coverage and effectiveness

General Store Manager

Sable Hills KwikSpar, Roodeplaat | Part-time: 2020 - 2024

- Filled in when short staffed as a general floor and cashier manager
- Assisted in managing 30 staff members to ensure quality and proficiency.
- Handled stock and logistics in the back-end area of the store
- Handled clients to ensure satisfaction

Freelance CCTV & Alarm Installer

Self Employed | 2021 - Present

- Installed and configured residential and small business CCTV and alarm systems
- Advised clients on optimal equipment placement and system setup
- Maintained and upgraded existing systems, ensuring continued reliability and functionality

Events Technician

Capital Productions | 2018 - Present

- Operated and maintained **AV, lighting, camera, and sound equipment** for various events
- Collaborated with event coordinators and performers to meet technical requirements
- Involved troubleshooting technical issues under pressure

EDUCATION

BSc Computer Science

University of Pretoria

2022 - Current

Distinctions:

- Discrete Structures (WTW115) - 78%
- Mathematics (WTW134) - 82%
- Theoretical CS (COS210) - 76%
- Community-based project (JCP202) - 92%

Secondary Schooling

Rietondale Highschool

2016 - 2020

Distinctions:

- Engineering Graphics and Design - 86%
- Computer Applications Technology - 80%

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Executive Learner Council - Rietondale Highschool (2020)
- Provincial Colours - Soccer
- Cum Laude (2014)
- Mathematics Olympiad Participant (2015)
- 1st team Captain
 - Hockey
 - Cricket

General Store Manager

Parktown Supermarket, Mayville | Part-time: 2024 - Present

- Filled in when short staffed as a general floor and cashier manager
- Handled stock and logistics.

CODING PROJECTS

BushBuddy - AI Wildlife Detection Application (2025)

<https://bushbuddyapp.onrender.com/>

React, Node.js, Python, PostgreSQL

Developing a full-stack application that allows users to track and share wildlife sightings. The system integrates AI-powered detection and features a social feed to display community findings.

- Responsible for front-end development, back-end architecture, and RESTful API integration
- Implementing user authentication, sightings feed, and location-based tracking features while protecting endangered animals

Custom NoSQL Database (2025)

React, Node.js, Python, PostgreSQL

Engineered a lightweight NoSQL database system from the ground up, focusing on JSON-based data storage, querying, and indexing.

- Designed a schema-less architecture to support flexible document storage
- Implemented core features such as data insertion, querying, updating, and deletion using TypeScript
- Emphasized modularity, type safety, and performance through custom-built data structures and file-based persistence

Film & TV Review Platform (2024)

JavaScript, Node.js, Express, MySQL

Developed a dynamic web application inspired by IMDb, enabling users to search for, review, and rate movies and TV series.

- Built both front-end and back-end using JavaScript, with a RESTful API for handling data requests
- Designed and managed a relational database in MySQL to store user profiles, ratings, and movie data
- Implemented user authentication, review submission, and a responsive UI for browsing and interaction

COMMUNITY SERVICE

YaBana Village – 41hrs (2024)

- Assisted in the renovation of their learning centre
- Repaired broken computer systems and installed educational programs
- Taught learners and caretakers how to use the computers and relevant programs

CORE PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES / RESOURCES

- C++
- Java
- JavaScript (html and css)
- React
- MySQL
- Linux
- GitHub

SKILLS

- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Time management
- Leadership
- Collaborative
- Adaptability
- Self-driven