

# Houston Karnen

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Graduate Master of IT (Distributed Computing) student passionate in backend and infrastructure. Two years of hands-on experience across full-stack web, distributed systems, cloud computing, and DevOps. Comfortable from design to deployment – whether it’s a React front-end, Node back-end, or Terraform pipeline. Looking for a graduate software-engineering / infrastructure role where I can build scalable services and keep learning.

## EDUCATION – University of Melbourne

**Master of Information Technology - Distributed Computing (Distinction)** *Jan 2024 – July 2025*  
*Key Areas: Distributed Algorithms & Systems, Cluster & Cloud Computing*

**Bachelor of Science - Computing & Software Systems** *Jan 2021 – Dec 2023*  
*Key Areas: Algorithms, Databases, Software Design, Cybersecurity*

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Languages:** Python, Java, JavaScript, TypeScript, C, SQL  
**Frameworks & Libraries:** React, Tailwind, Node.js, Express, Flask, Spring Boot, XState, MPI  
**Cloud & Infrastructure:** AWS (EC2, S3, IAM, VPC), Azure (App Service, Storage), Kubernetes, Docker, Fission, OpenStack,  
**IAc & DevOps:** Terraform, Git, GitHub Actions, SLURM, CI/CD, Agile  
**Data & ML:** PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Elasticsearch, LangChain, HuggingFace  
**Tools:** Jira, Confluence, Postman, Jupyter, Unix / Linux CLI

## CERTIFICATIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner *Ongoing*
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900) *2025*
- Melbourne Employability Accelerator *2023*
- Melbourne International Undergraduate Scholarship *2021*

## EXPERIENCE – Work Placements

**Full Stack Developer** *Mar 2025 – July 2025*

*Clinical Reasoning Simulations – University of Melbourne x University of Eastern Finland*

- Developed deterministic simulation engine using **YAML + XState v5**, modelling medical scenarios in real time and serving **50+** concurrent learners
- Integrated **LangChain & LLaMA 3** chatbot; 95% accuracy mapping multilingual text to actions
- Exposed **RESTful APIs** on **Node.js** secured with **JWT**, with 80% **Jest** coverage
- Added **xAPI** logging on **PostgreSQL**; wrote onboarding docs and Postman suites

**Intern / Full Stack Developer** *June 2024 – Dec 2024*

*Queue Solutions*

- Refactored legacy **jQuery** modules into **React + TypeScript**
- Built motivational-modelling graph tool with **MaxGraph**, used by UniMelb IT capstone students
- Practiced two-week Scrum sprints; led backlog refinement and demo sessions with client

**Web Developer** *July 2023 – Oct 2023*

*Longbeach Community Centre*

- Implemented **MERN**-based portal that digitized class attendance and tutor / admin controls; eliminated 100% paper records for 20+ weekly classes

## StudyGenie

- Bootstrapped Azure-funded SaaS that parses course materials and auto-generates personalized quizzes via **Azure OpenAI**
- Deployed **Flask REST API + React dashboard** on **Azure App Services**; data stored in **Azure Storage**
- Integrated **Google OAuth2** for role-based access; onboarded 50+ pilot users

## SELECTED PROJECTS

**DevOps / Full Stack Developer – AWS Portfolio Deployment (Personal)** *July 2025 – Aug 2025*

- Containerized **React + TypeScript** e-portfolio in **Docker** and served it on Amazon Linux 2023
- Provisioned **VPC, public subnet, IGW, security group, EC2 t3.micro** via **Terraform**; first-boot setup (Docker install + repo clone) automated with cloud-init user-data

**Full Stack Developer – Chrome Translation Extension (Personal)** *July 2025 – Aug 2025*

- Built Manifest V3 Chrome Extension to OCR and translate Korean novel text in-browser using **Tesseract.js & OpenAI API**
- Implemented multi-window architecture with background service worker, content scripts, and popup interface for image selection and translation management

**NLP Data Engineer – Fact-Checking Pipeline** *Apr 2025 – June 2025*

- Two-stage retrieval system using Sentence-BERT + FAISS for semantic indexing of 1M+ documents; cross-encoder reranking and dynamic filtering boosted recall by 18%
- Chained Google **Gemma-3-1B-it** for claim classification; authored technical report

**Java Developer – Distributed Chat Application** *Apr 2025 – June 2025*

- Peer-to-peer chat application with Bully leader-election and heartbeat failure detection, recovering in ~1s across 10 nodes; achieved 98%
- Designed Swing GUI and modular managers for dynamic joins, routing, graceful shutdowns

**DevOps / Cloud Engineer – Traffic & Air Quality Analytics** *Apr 2024 – June 2024*

- Built serverless ingest on **Kubernetes + Fission – OpenStack MRC**; harvested VicRoads & BoM APIs hourly into **Elasticsearch**
- Visualized PM2.5 vs congestion in Jupyter; produced high-distinction report

**Data Engineer – SPARTAN HPC Cluster** *Mar 2024 – Apr 2024*

- Parallel-processed 120GB JSON Twitter dataset using **mpi4py** and **ijson** with round-robin scheduler; achieved **3x** speeds
- Automated benchmarking and job scheduling via SLURM (1N1C, 1N8C, 2N8C)

**Java Developer – Collaborative Whiteboard** *Mar 2024 – May 2024*

- Multithreaded server coordinating drawing & chat for 10+ clients
- Added save/load, permission management, and network fault tolerance; scored 97%

## Activities

- CISSA (Computing & Information Systems Students Association)
- UniMelb Information Security Club
- UniMelb Rover Team – Software Engineering team
- Chess club
- Anime & Manga Club

## Languages

- English (Fluent)
- Indonesian (Native)
- Chinese (Intermediate)

References available upon request