

# Craig Edwards

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I am currently a freelance software engineer, who recently created two full stack apps. My [Bird on the Brain](#) app for birders uses Python in a Flask framework and Jinja templating, HTML, CSS, and Bootstrap. This app also employs SQLAlchemy for RESTful API calls to a PostgreSQL database. Furthermore, it allows users to search Cornell's international, crowd-sourced, token-protected eBird database, using a Python API wrapper.

My [Bird Brain Philanthropy](#) React app is a riff on an eCommerce site, has a Python backend, API calls to public endpoints, a Firebase authentication system (allowing Google account login), and a Realtime Database, providing user cart persistence across sessions.

My experience with AWS includes securing a customized URL through Route 53, creating a static website in an S3 bucket, and hosting my [portfolio](#) on AWS CloudFront, using distributed edge caching and the Elastic Container Service. I also use Git regularly and have exposure to C#, LINQ, PHP, MongoDB, Heroku, Git Pages, Pandas, and Matplotlib.

My first career was in higher education, where I served as a Professor of English, Dean, and VP. During that time, I developed advanced soft skills, such as creative problem solving, written documentation, public presentation, collaboration, multi-tasking, strategic planning, leadership, time management, conflict resolution, adaptability, crisis management, foreign language learning, and customer service. I also had significant practical experience and success using data analysis. For example, as a VP for Enrollment Management, I used data to drive marketing and call center scripting, resulting in breaking enrollment records and bringing in more than \$400,000 in additional tuition revenue. At two universities, I had opportunities to gather, analyze, and present data in such a way that my universities successfully earned 10-year re-accreditations, securing hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal financial aid for our students.

I thrived on this work in liberal arts higher education. However, liberal arts degree-granting institutions are struggling nationwide. Over the past eight years, the university I worked for eliminated positions I held twice, due to financial exigency. I decided, therefore, that I wanted to launch a new career in an expanding field. Years ago, when my university was seeking accreditation, I wrote a 200-page report and built a website that collected, organized, and presented the hundreds of pages of documents the accreditors required. I remembered greatly enjoying coding that site. So, when thinking about a second career, I decided that I would be able to apply all the analytical and soft skills I developed in higher education in a new field, which I already knew I enjoyed. I, therefore, enrolled and graduated from [Coding Temple's](#) Software Engineering / Python / Data Bootcamp, and I have been growing my development skills ever since.

As an administrator, I had the opportunity to hire many people, and I found that often the most useful part of the process is reference-checking. So, I would encourage you to review these recommendations: [LinkedIn](#), [GE/Delta Software Engineering Manager](#), [Art & Design Chair](#), and [Clients & Employees](#).

I look forward to the possibility of using my maturing engineering skills and my seasoned analytical and soft skills to further the mission of your company.

***J. A. Craig Edwards***