

Ri Hong

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10× Hackathon Winner · Founder & Entrepreneur · Full Stack Engineer · Customer-Focused Product Builder

EDUCATION

University of Waterloo

2022 – 2027

Bachelor of Computer Science (Co-op) · GPA: 3.9/4.0

SKILLS

Languages: Go, Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, C/C++, Java

Technologies: React, Next.js, PostgreSQL, FastAPI, Celery, Temporal, AWS, Kubernetes, Terraform, gRPC, Docker

EXPERIENCE

Base Power

Jan 2025 – Apr 2025

Software Engineering Intern

Austin, TX

- Delivered **full stack** solutions end-to-end in a mission-critical trading environment, working directly with traders to understand pain points and scope requirements; questioned assumptions to identify workarounds, preventing weeks of unnecessary engineering work.
- Shipped market controller UI rewrite using **React** and **Next.js** in iterative increments, enabling on-call traders to execute trades within seconds; implemented scalable **Go** microservices with **gRPC**, reducing serialization overhead by 20%.
- Discovered and resolved performance bottlenecks through systematic investigation, reducing complexity from $O(n^2)$ to $O(n \log n)$ and optimizing async publishing, achieving 32% speedup; transitioned to cloud-native execution using **Temporal** Cloud, eliminating single-node failure risks.

Walnote.ai

Aug 2025 – Present

Founder & CTO

Toronto, ON

- Built and launched an AI platform from concept to production, taking extreme ownership of product strategy, engineering, and customer success; delivered end-to-end solutions processing 1,000+ customer animations with scalable **Python** pipeline (**FastAPI** + **Celery**), reducing render latency from 12s to 2s.
- Scoped customer requirements and iterated rapidly based on feedback, shipping incremental improvements weekly; scaled infrastructure with **Docker**, Cloudflare R2, and **PostgreSQL**; raised \$20k pre-seed by demonstrating clear business value and customer traction.

Groq

Sept 2025 – Dec 2025

Software Engineering Intern

Toronto, ON

- Scoped and built an observability platform to measure engineering productivity and AI tool adoption, working with 400+ engineers to understand requirements and deliver actionable insights; shipped incrementally to gather feedback and iterate quickly.
- Engineered generalized multi-region infrastructure with **Terraform** and **Kubernetes** on GCP, building scalable solutions that served multiple teams; cut deployment time by 24% through systematic optimization.

GeeseHacks

May 2024 – Feb 2025

Lead Software Developer

Waterloo, ON

- Took ownership of software infrastructure for a hackathon with 600+ attendees, leading a team of 8 developers and collaborating with stakeholders to scope requirements and deliver solutions end-to-end; achieved 98% uptime during critical event.
- Built generalized DevOps platform managing multiple databases, ensuring 100% schema synchronization across environments; reduced deployment errors by 30% through systematic improvements and rapid iteration.

PROJECTS

Trasee | *Pyodide, React, TypeScript, Vite, React Flow*

Oct 2025

- Built a real-time **Python** code visualizer with interactive **React** UI, helping users understand algorithms visually; engineered two-phase analysis pipeline and time-travel debugger, won “Best Revolutionizing Learning Hack” at Hack the Valley X.

FlaimBrain | *LangChain, GPT-4, MongoDB, Flask*

Oct 2023

- Engineered an AI study assistant using **GPT-4** for personalized learning tools; led RAG architecture integrating **GPT-4** with **MongoDB** Vector Search and **Flask** backend, achieved 4th place at Hack the Valley 8 among 80 teams.