Nicholas Zolton

281-913-9227 | nicholaszolton@gmail.com | nicholaszolton.dev | github.com/NicholasZolton

Technical Skills

Programming Languages: Java, C\#, C++, C, Python, JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML, CSS
Tools/Frameworks: React, React Native, NodeJS, Spring, Docker, Kubernetes, FastAPI, PyTorch, Svelte

Experience

Chief Technology Officer — Oct 2025 - Present
Happyverse — *San Francisco, CA*
- Leading technical strategy for a pre-seed startup valued at $10M backed by Village Global, Jeff Dean, and Nvidia's Inception
- Secured multiple 5-figure enterprise contracts by leading end-to-end customer evaluations spanning technical discovery, solution design, and enterprise security requirements

Head of Engineering — Sep 2025 - Oct 2025
Happyverse — *San Francisco, CA*
- Implemented agentic solutions including knowledge retrieval, MCP integration, and interactive screen features, resulting in a significant increase in pilot user engagement and retention
- Reduced GPU inference costs by 75% without affecting broader quality benchmarks by optimizing model infrastructure and enabling distributed, parallelizable inferencing solutions

Founding Software Engineer — Jun 2025 - Aug 2025
Happyverse — *San Francisco, CA*
- Architected distributed, real-time video-conferencing AI systems using WebRTC and Triton; rapidly grew product to 1,000+ users with hundreds of AI conversations weekly
- Built a B2B web-app for tailoring real-time AI experiences, owning the React/TypeScript frontend, backend/infra, and Kubernetes orchestration

Software Engineer — Feb 2025 - Jun 2025
Walmart Global Tech - Global Workforce Management Analytics Team — *Bentonville, AR*
- Integrated Walmart Canada into analytics platform, eliminating multi-million-dollar third-party costs
- Built data pipelines with Airflow/BigQuery and improved frontend performance for a web app serving 60k daily users
- Developed and deployed critical infrastructure components using Java Spring for the Global Workforce Management Demand team, directly facilitating the automatic scheduling of 2.3 million associates worldwide

Teaching Assistant - Discrete Mathematics — Aug 2024 - Dec 2024
University of Texas at Dallas — *Richardson, TX*
- Mentored 40+ students in discrete mathematics concepts including logic, set theory, and graph theory, facilitating a deeper understanding of computer science and algorithm fundamentals
- Collaborated with faculty to grade assignments and exams, providing detailed feedback to support student learning and academic success

Software Engineering Intern — Jun 2024 - Aug 2024
Walmart Global Tech - Global Workforce Management Demand Team — *Bentonville, AR*
- Spearheaded Java Spring microservice for critical task automation, saving dozens of monthly labor hours
- Reduced tech debt by 30% across team projects through legacy code refactoring, improving development velocity and lowering maintenance costs

Software Development Intern — Nov 2022 - May 2023
BenefitMall — *Richardson, TX*
- Optimized C# and SQL stored procedures for W-2 services, reducing report generation time by up to 50%

Software Engineering Intern — Dec 2021 - Aug 2022
Brains4Drones — *Dallas, TX*
- Pioneered use of OpenVINO and YoloV5 to increase embedded vision-inferencing AI performance by 50%+
- Managed two vital projects, removing reliance on shortage-ridden hardware and improving AI model accuracy

Education

University of Texas at Dallas — GPA: 4.0
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science — *Dec 2024*

Projects

Sparrow Link | *FastAPI, Postgres, React, Typescript* — Dec 2024
- 1st place Engineering Capstone project at The University of Texas at Dallas
- Developed a remote research platform for Spark Biomedical, accelerating clinical trials and data collection for their neuro-stimulation device, and enabling secure remote access to medical technology
- CES 2026 Finalist for Best Wellness Tech

Achievements

1st Place Gemini x Pipecat ($100,000 prize) — Oct 2025
Google Developer Student Club President — 2023 - 2024
Hackathon Awards: HackUTA (2nd), Axxess (1st), HackRICE (2nd), HackPrinceton (Finalist) — 2023