

Will Palaia

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Education

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

December 2025 (expected)

B.S. in Computer Science, B.A. in Economics

Coursework: Data Structures, Computer Systems, Discrete Math, Linear Algebra, Programming Methodologies

Skills

Languages: Java, Python, C, JavaScript, Typescript, HTML/CSS

Technologies: React, NodeJS, Git, AWS (EC2), Linux (Ubuntu), Docker, Kubernetes, VBA/Office

Experience

Imago Rehab, Remote

August 2024 – Present

Software Engineer Intern

ISO New England, Holyoke, MA

June 2024 – August 2024

Software Engineer Intern – Python, VBA

- Implemented a process to verify transformer energy levels across New England, and to dynamically adjust their representation in the power grid model, significantly enhancing daily energy forecast accuracy
- Developed Python script to filter and format >37,000 rows of Excel data, reducing processing time by ~30 hours
- Programmed comparison tool to analyze differences between load data files, build without any built-in libraries

Camp Tahattawan, Littleton, MA

June 2023 – August 2023

Camp Counselor

- Assisted technology specialist in developing new and interactive ways to teach kids the basics of computing

BigBear.AI, Lexington, MA

June 2022 – August 2022

Software Developer Intern (Full Stack Web Dev & Data Engineering) - JavaScript, React, NodeJS

- Built top-to-bottom Jira cloud-based web application over three two-week sprints using agile technologies
- Implemented hierarchical UI and progress features to greatly increase efficiency and scalability on the user-side
- Designed and integrated unit and CI/CD pipeline tests - increased total app test coverage by >25%
- Deployed on AWS ECS and released to the Atlassian Marketplace, contributed to 100% of total profits

US Soccer, Massachusetts Youth Soccer, Lancaster, MA

September 2017 – August 2022

Soccer Referee

Projects

Soccer Tryout Evaluator, ReactJS, Python

June 2024 – July 2024

- Web app used to automate a process of ranking youth soccer players based on tryout performances. Creates teams for >600 players, using OCR and sentiment analysis ratings to optimize model. Saves ~60 hours annually.

Rubik's Cube Solver, Python

March 2024 – May 2024

- Developed a solver utilizing reinforcement learning with Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO), implementing a digital cube generator, scrambling functionality, and solution finding based on Manhattan distance heuristic

Spotify Sound Recognizer, Python

November 2023

- Implemented a voice-controlled Spotify integration using natural language processing web API, enabling hands-free commands for play, pause, skip, rewind, and other functionalities

Reward Collector Bot, Python, AWS EC2

August 2023

- Python automation script using Selenium and Chrome WebDriver to streamline website sign-in, including Google OAuth authentication and daily reward collection. Generates \$20 weekly

Activities/Interests

Minutemen International Equity Fund @ UMass Amherst

August 2024 – Present

Quantitative Software Engineer – Python

Minuteman Investment Management @ UMass Amherst

February 2023 – September 2023

Quantitative Data Analyst – Python

UMass Machine Learning Club @ UMass Amherst

September 2022 – Present

Interests: Stock trading, poker, soccer, tennis, golf, drumming, video games