WILL PALAIA

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EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst   Amherst, MA
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Bachelor of Arts in Economics   *May 2026*
Coursework: Algorithms, Web Development, Database Management, Data Structures, Computer Systems

SKILLS

Languages: Python, Java, C, SQL, Typescript, HTML/CSS, VBA, R
Technologies: React, Node.js, Git, AWS (EC2), Linux (Ubuntu), Docker, Kubernetes

EXPERIENCE

Imago Rehab   September 2024 – December 2024
Software Engineer Intern   *Lowell, MA*
- Creating web app through Android Studio, Nodejs, and ExpressJS, connected to a MongoDB database
- Integrating AI-powered chatbot into app through Google Dialogflow to enhance customer support, offering automated responses to user generated queries

ISO New England   June 2024 – August 2024
Software Engineer Intern   *Holyoke, MA*
- Implemented a process to verify transformer energy levels across New England as well as dynamically adjust their representation in the power grid model, enhancing daily energy forecast accuracy by >5%
- Developed Python script to filter and format >37,000 rows of Excel data, reducing processing time by ~30 hours
- Programmed internal tool to analyze discrepancies in load data files, build without any built-in libraries

Camp Tahattawan   June 2023 – August 2023
Camp Counselor, Technology Assistant   *Littleton, MA*
- Assisted technology specialist in developing new and interactive ways to teach kids the basics of computing

BigBear.AI   June 2022 – August 2022
Software Engineer Intern   *Lexington, MA*
- Built top-to-bottom Jira cloud-based web application over three two-week sprints using agile technologies
- Implemented hierarchical UI and progress features to 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   September 2017 – August 2022
Soccer Referee   *Lancaster, MA*

PROJECTS

TrailSafe | *JavaScript, HTML/CSS*   September 2024 - December 2024
- Developed a Node.js-based full-stack application featuring trail search with Google Places API integration, weather and gear recommendations, and an SOS emergency contact system, utilizing Express.js for the backend, Sequelize for an ORM database, and a responsive front-end UI.

Soccer Team Generator | *HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Python, AWS EC2*   June 2024 – July 2024
- Built web app used to automate a process of ranking youth soccer players based on tryout performances. Creates teams for >600 players, saving ~60 hours annually, deployed on AWS EC2 instance

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

EXTRACURRICULARS/INTERESTS

Minutemen International Equity Fund @ UMass Amherst   February 2023 – Present
Quantitative Software Engineer

MassAI @ UMass Amherst   September 2022 – Present

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