Arda Kurama

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EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame | Notre Dame, IN   May 2027
Bachelor of Science   *GPA: 3.85*
Major: Computer Science, Minor: Mathematics
Coursework: Data Structures & Algorithms, Systems Programming, Operating Systems, Theory of Computing, AI

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, JavaScript, TypeScript, C, Java, Bash, HTML, CSS
Frameworks/Libraries: React Native, Django, Flask, Node.js, REST, GitHub Actions
Tools: AWS Lambda, Zappa, Pinecone, OpenAI API, SQLite, Airtable, Zapier, Jotform, Git, Linux, VS Code

PROJECTS

DineND · GitHub · App Store   Apr 2025 – Present
Full-Stack Mobile Application | React Native, Python, Flask, AWS Lambda, Pinecone, OpenAI API, GitHub Actions
- Built a cross-platform mobile app for Notre Dame dining data using React Native and a custom Python/REST backend
- Developed "Plate Planner," an AI agent using OpenAI embeddings to suggest meals based on nutrient goals
- Integrated a Pinecone vector database to index pre-embedded dining items, enabling semantic similarity search that cut OpenAI token usage by 90% and query time by 85%
- Built distributed serverless backend using AWS Lambda and Zappa with CI/CD via GitHub Actions
- Diagnosed performance bottlenecks and reduced scraping runtime by 90% through logging, concurrency, and caching
- Designed the system to run without a persistent backend using static JSON, local storage, and CI/CD deployment

CampusMart Marketplace   Mar 2025 – Apr 2025
Full-Stack Web Application | Python, Django, HTML, CSS, SQLite, REST APIs
- Collaborated on a 4-person team to build a full-featured campus marketplace with user authentication, CRUD functionality for product listings, and keyword-based search/filtering
- Designed and populated a persistent SQLite database to store user and listing information, queried via Django ORM
- Implemented token-auth REST API to support virtual currency and rate-limiting on listings

WORK EXPERIENCE

South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership   May 2024 – Present
Software Development Intern → Contract Data Engineer
- Designed and implemented the intake and review infrastructure for $45M in Indiana READI 2.0 grant funding using Jotform, Airtable, and Zapier, automating application collection, scoring workflows, and real-time reporting
- Built 5 no-code systems to automate analytics, form submissions, and cohort tracking for non-technical teams
- Generalized the original backend architecture into a modular form-to-dashboard template reused across multiple economic development initiatives

LEADERSHIP

Computer Club   Jan 2025 – Present
LeetCode Session Lead
- Led LeetCode prep sessions for underclassmen, creating custom materials focused on big tech interview strategies

Student International Business Council   Aug 2023 – Dec 2024
Microsoft & Amazon Travel Teams → Microsoft Project Lead
- Led development of "Copilot College," a product demo pitched to Microsoft HQ executives
- Delivered technical demos and product pitches to Microsoft and Amazon executives using HTML/JS prototypes and visual decks