Ava Hajratwala

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Summary

Recent Columbia graduate and emerging leader passionate about designing and optimizing systems to make apps more accessible for users and developers. Experienced in full-stack development, AI research, and user-centered design. Seeking software engineering roles.

Education

Barnard College, Columbia University — New York, NY
Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science — *Sept. 2021 – Dec. 2024*
Selected courses: Design for Generative AI, Entrepreneurship, NLP — **GPA: 3.81/4.00**

Skills

Languages: Java, TypeScript (Node), Python, C, C++, SQL (MySQL, PostgreSQL), HTML, CSS, Haskell
Frameworks: React, Angular, Express.js, Flask, FastAPI, JUnit
Developer Tools: Git, Docker, Supabase/Firebase, Vercel, CI/CD, Postman, AWS, Maven
Libraries: jQuery, TailwindCSS, Bootstrap, NumPy, OpenCV, WebAudio

Experience

Full-stack Developer — Sept. 2024 – Feb. 2025
WBAR Radio — *New York, NY*

- Automated frontend/backend deployment processes by building development environments and CI/CD pipelines, reducing errors and speeding up deployment times by 30x.
- Designed and deployed a scalable Python REST API, enabling access to up-to-date information on show schedules, archive recordings, and DJ profiles for over 1000 monthly users.
- Designed and integrated a relational database to replace data published manually in the source code, allowing non-developers to update site content.
- Designed and implemented a role-based access control system and SSO-enabled login to ensure data security for DJs and admin users.
- Coordinated interviews with 10 stakeholders across the organization, leading to UX improvements that boosted user satisfaction.

Undergraduate AI Research Lead — May 2024 – Dec. 2024
Soros Lab, Barnard College — *New York, NY*

- Promoted to team lead in 3 months for strong leadership, organization, and communication skills.
- Cut approx. 10 hours per week of test runtime by parallelizing experiment trials (7x speedup).
- Designed and implemented a testing GUI in Python using Tkinter, cutting configuration time in half by eliminating manual file updates.
- Mentored 3 teammates in Git and GitHub, improving team collaboration and version control practices.

Projects

Privacy Guardian | *Python (Flask), React, OpenAI API, Vercel* — Sept. 2024 – Feb. 2025

- Designed and built a full-stack React app to help users evaluate jargon-filled privacy policies using generative AI.
- Tested new features on 10 users while iterating on technical prototype, increasing user satisfaction by 30%.
- Increased user trust in the model's accuracy by implementing a feature that displayed citations alongside the model's claims.

Flight Simulator | *C++, Arduino, Unity, Serial, Fusion360* — Apr. – May 2024

- Developed a custom USB-C protocol for an ESP32 to control a virtual plane in the Unity game engine.
- De-noised analog sensor inputs in real-time to smooth plane handling and decrease crash rate.
- Rendered real-time flight feedback to the ESP32 screen to warn pilots of crashes.
- Designed and machined a custom protective enclosure for the electronics.