Ben Piekarz

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EDUCATION

Brown University, 4.00/4.00 GPA, *Computer Science, Sc.B & Economics, A.B.*   Providence, RI | Class of 2024
Courses: Algorithms & Data Structures, Intro Computer Systems, Intro Software Engineering. Intro OOP & CS, Statistical Inference, Linear Algebra, Intro Discrete Structures & Probability, Intermediate Micro/Macroeconomics, Web Dev

Homestead High School, 4.00/4.00 GPA Unweighted   Cupertino, CA | Class of 2020
Courses: AP Economics, AP Government, Intro Java, Intro Python, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP Language, AP Literature

TECHNICAL SKILLS & INTERESTS

Technical Languages: Python, Java, C, C++, HTML/CSS/JS
Technical Frameworks/Software: React.js, Vue.js, Django, Node.js, MongoDB, Bootstrap, jQuery, Tkinter, Microsoft Office
Languages: Native proficiency in English and Hebrew, full professional working proficiency in Spanish
Interests: Distance running, road & mountain biking, hooping, Warriors basketball, stock investing/trading, AI & its potential

CS PROJECTS @ Brown (contact me for project files)

Flappy Bird Clone + Neural Network Engine (Java)
- Coded a java application clone of the famous Flappy Bird mobile game
- Created a neural network-based engine, incorporating the concept of neuroevolution, that trains a population of birds to master the Flappy Bird application I created; mastery observed in under a minute

Tetris (Java)
- Coded a full-scale Java clone of Tetris, including score keeping and high score displays

Heap (Python)
- Implemented a priority queue based on the min-heap data structure and a linked binary tree

Graph (Java)
- Implemented a graph using an adjacency matrix as the underlying data structure
- Implemented the classic PageRank algorithm and the Prim-Jarnik algorithm for finding minimum spanning forests on the created graph

Shell (C)
- Implemented a C shell with the following functions: running built-in commands either on background or foreground, executing programs, masking signals for different processes, managing processes and updating status

Buffer Overflow Attacks (x86-64 assembly)
- Implemented a series of buffer overflow attacks by overriding stack return addresses using exploit assembly code

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

Rocket Alumni Solutions, *Full-Stack Engineer & Sales Representative*   Providence, RI | May 2021 - Present
- Early employee at $180k ARR SAAS digital hall of fame startup
- Resolve weekly engineering Jira tickets and perform code review/testing
- Strengthen integration between Python back-end and Vue.js front-end; perform zoom demonstrations to potential clients

Brown Investment Group, *Portfolio Manager & Research Committee Analyst*   Providence, RI | Sep 2020 - Present
- Co-lead weekly pitches for Brown's largest investment group, managing approximately $500k of Brown endowment funds
- Discuss our stock picks with Brown's endowment office and determine the number of shares we purchase

Sylvan Adams Sports Institute, *Data Analysis Intern*   Tel Aviv, Israel | Jun 2019 – Jul 2019
- Analyzed data from researchers evaluating physical capabilities of Israeli pro athletes using Python
- Worked with NumPy, Matplotlib, and Jupyter Notebooks to model patterns from athletic data

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

Van Wickle Ventures, *Associate & VP Operations*   Providence, RI | Dec 2020 - Present
- Source deals, conduct due diligence, and communicate with investment committee made up of professional investors
- Manage the budget and oversee communications with Brown's advancement office
- Participated in the due diligence processes of two $25k investments

J-Ventures VC Fund, *Fellow*   Palo Alto, CA | Jul 2020 – May 2021
- Sourced deals, met and communicated with entrepreneurs on a weekly basis, conducted due diligence
- Participated in monthly fund meetings, vote for or against investments along with ~200 limited fund partners

TAMID Group @ Brown, *Strategy Consultant*   Providence, RI | Sep 2020 – Present
- Conduct competitive benchmarking and research on investor needs, and compile information about existing APIs to formulate actionable deliverables for Tradint, an Israeli startup creating an investor-assistant tool