

Brendan Ward

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847-373-0365

Education

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science

GPA: 3.14

Significant Coursework

Design/Thinking/Communication 1&2
3D Computer Animation

June 2021 (anticipated)

B.S. Computer Science
Media Arts & Game Design Certificate

Game Design Studio
Data Structures and Data Management

Experience

Independent Tools Programming & Character Art

Summer 2020

Technical projects explored during COVID

- Collaborated with indie artists to create a MAXScript that automates their workflow for mirroring skins
- Developed a Blender add-on which recreates the unique material inputs of Final Fantasy XIV, creating a more accurate preview for artists to work with
 - Implemented i/o for material input binary data, which is compatible with engine tools
 - Reviewed code from open source modding projects to create compatible tools
- Created custom character models, becoming familiar with processes of sculpting, normal map baking, material design, and texture painting in 3ds Max, Blender, and Substance Painter

Intern, DAAD RISE Germany

Summer 2019

RWTH Aachen, Aachen, Germany

- Integrated with existing Robot Operating System setup to continue work on a seven-year project
- Implemented PySide interface for initiating and evaluating data recording across four networked robots, for integration into future modular testing software suites
- Designed future-proof sensor data storage procedures, enabling future cooperation between mechanical and computer science departments on data analysis for up to a decade
- Collaborated in an international workspace, adjusting to various levels of language proficiency and cultural familiarity for cooperation on a team project

Media and Design Studio

Summer 2017– March 2020

Northwestern Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Evanston, Illinois

- Restored outmoded digital archives for Picpus, Walled Garden of Memory in order to enable access on modern machines for teaching and research
 - Updated image details for IIIF implementation, creating an automated script to generate manifests from SQL data linked across multiple tables
 - Customized Omeka-S themes and plugins, using the Omeka PHP API and Omeka server events to streamline the user experience and add intelligence to the webpage
- Upgraded existing python scripts for syncing data between university registry and WebCheckout user/patron databases, streamlining the process to run automatically via cron with minimal impact

Activities

Northwestern University Athletic Bands

August 2017 – present

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, Iota Chapter

January 2018 – present

- Executive Committee, Warden: managed personnel, properties, and venues for events

Boy Scouts of America

February 2011 – May 2017

- Eagle Scout: organized a large volunteer service project and studied life skills

Skills

Computer – C, C#, C++, Unity, Python, 3ds Max, Blender, Maya, MAXScript, WebGL, pgSQL, Unix-based OS, git
Languages – German (intermediate)