David Pollack

Objective

Inspire others to have the courage to learn and speak a foreign language to make a leap of faith to live in a foreign country.

Experience

Machine Learning Engineer @ YEAY GmbH
(Berlin — Jan 2018 – Jun 2018)

My primary role was to use object recognition on videos to identify different classes of clothing. I utilized a Mask R-CNN-based network with custom additions for blur detection to select the clearest frames. Data prep included finding an appropriate dataset, writing scripts to translate between various annotation formats (PASCAL, COCO, YOLO) and add missing fields such as segmentation naively or algorithmically (i.e. GrabCut). Additionally, I dockerized my solution to make it more portable.

Co-Founder and CTO @ Cygnus Association Management
(Atlanta — Aug 2014 – Present)

Founded an HOA (Homeowners' Association) management company to manage HOAs in Atlanta. Responsible for finding technological solutions, including but not limited to paperless post, intra-company communication, and financial services, to modernize a decidedly old-school industry. Work 100% remotely.

Founder @ Tinavg: Alphabets for Everyone
(Berlin — Mar 2015 – Dec 2016)

Tinavg, This Is Not A Vocabulary Game, utilizes different languages to create a fun, fast-paced pattern matching game that is suitable for all ages. The webapp is constructed on Google Polymer technology stack.

Volunteer Program Director @ Rütli Schule
(Berlin — Jan 2014 – Jul 2016)

Lead an optional English class for students in the 11th, 12th, and 13th class at the Rütlischule in Neukölln. Teach the students how to use technology to help them learn English with sites such as Quizlet, Duolingo, and Free Rice. Foster a welcoming atmosphere to encourage the students to overcome their fears of conversating in English with native speakers.

Self-Employed @ Private Tutor

(Berlin — Jun 2013 - Oct 2015)

Develop a personalized curriculum to ensure students excel at the GMAT, while minimizing the stress associated with taking such an important entrance exam.

Lebensmittelhelfer @ Prinessinnengarten

(Berlin — Jul 2014 - Oct 2014)

Ich arbeite im Café am Prinzessinnengarten in der Nähe Moritzplatz. Meine Verantwortungen sind das Essen kochen, mit den Kunden reden und das Geschirr putzen. Ich muss auf deutsch und auf englisch mit meinen Kollegen und den Kunden sprechen.

Senior Consultant @ Navigant

(Atlanta — Sep 2006 - Apr 2013)

Completed re-underwrites of over 750 residential home loans for several of the TBTF (Too Big To Fail) US banks in disputes related to the US housing crisis. Managed and reviewed team members' work product. Developed software to automate repetitive tasks that cut the per-loan prep time by an order of a magnitude. Promoted in 2007 and 2010.

Creator @ Joomla! Google Maps Plugin

(Atlanta — Jun 2005 - Sep 2006)

Developed and supported the first Google Maps API plugin for the popular CMS, Joomla! 1.0, in the PHP programming language. Implemented a reverse geocoder prior to the inclusion of this feature in the official Google Maps API. Provided customer support to thousands of users from all over the world. Monetized the project with Google AdWords.

Chef @ Whole Foods Market

(Atlanta — Sep 2005 - Jun 2005)

Prepared food to the quality and safety standards demanded by Whole Foods, the world's largest organic foods supermarket. Provided excellent customer service to the market's high-end clientele.

Education

- Master's Program in Economics and Management Science from Humboldt Universität
- Bachelors of Arts in Economics from Emory University in 2005

Languages

- English (native)
- German (professional working proficiency)

- Arabic (basic)
- French (basic)

Duolingo Accomplishments

- Username: maverickpl
- Completed the trees for German and French (both from English)
- Contributed dozens of new answers to several trees spanning across three languages in both production and beta language pairs
- Game Levels: 17 in French (English -> French and German -> French), 16 in German, 9 in English (German -> English), and 5 in Spanish
- Immersion Levels: 5 in German and 2 in French
- Discussion board contributor

Test Scores

- GMAT
  - Verbal: 45 (Percentile: 99)
  - Quant: 49 (Percentile: 83)
  - Overall: 760 (Percentile: 99)
  - Analytical Writing: 5 (Percentile: 57)
  - Integrated Reasoning: 7 (Percentile: 84)
- GRE
  - Verbal: 162 (Percentile: 89)
  - Quant: 164 (Percentile: 88)
  - Analytical Writing: 4.5 (Percentile: 80)

Github

- Username: dhpollack
- pytorch/pytorch
  - 3505 - improvements to ModuleList and ParameterList classes
  - 2657 - Add PadNd functions
- pytorch/audio
  - 59 - allow loading with offsets and num_frames and saving specified bit precision
  - 58 - torch.cos not implemented for LongTensor fix
  - 23 - pytorch implementation of MEL spectrograms (no librosa req'd)
  - 16 - mu-law companding transform
  - 15 - add MEL spectrograms transform and fixed a few tests
  - 13 - update save/load to prevent bad inputs
  - 11 - basic transforms and two datasets
  - 10 - add gitignore

- 4 - bytes function requires type
- rasa_nlu
  - 443 - add sklearn-crfsuite install instructions
- edX
  - 1119 - Update README.md
  - 1166 - make backup of previous server-vars.yml
  - 1285 - added ansible task to add chris-lea ppas for current version nodejs
  - 1286 - COMMON_ENABLE_BASIC_AUTH to False in ansible/comment/defaults/main.yml
- jquery.i18n
  - 71 - specified locale wasn't loading when dir was used in load()

Skills

- Proficiency in Linux and Python (numpy, tensorflow, keras, pytorch, etc). Exposure to Scala, R, Javascript, CSS/HTML, and (No)SQL
- Kompetent in HTML, CSS, Javscript, Python, R, (No)SQL und alle die übliche Apps wie MS Office
- Proficiency in Deep Learning (pytorch, tensorflow, keras, scipy, etc). Exposure to Scala (Hadoop/Spark) and R.

Activities

- Freiwilliger @ Notunterkunft für Flüchtlinge bei Stadtmission Berlin
- Freiwilliger @ Prinzessinnengarten
- Duolingo
- OpenEdx Contributor
- OpenEdx Beiträger
- Coursera
- Budget Advisor @ Habitat for Humanity
- MoBro @ Movember
- Green Market Volunteer @ Piedmont Park
- Cycling
- 2020 All-Stars Fantasy Baseball Podcast
- Tinavg - An Alphabet Learning Webapp
- Bouldering