Jack Wrenn

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Education

Brown University

Computer Science

Ph.D. (Anticipated) 2021

Sc.M. 2018

University of Rhode Island

Computer Science, History

B.A. 2015

Employment

Systems Operator

University of Rhode Island 2011–2015

A systems operator and support technician, I provided technical support and maintained key infrastructure (Windows and Linux servers) for the ~40 staff members of URI's student center.

Course Staff

Brown University, URI 2012–2020

I provided design, instructional, and infrastructure to support to various courses in OOP, functional programming, language design, and model-finding.

Researcher

Brown University 2015–2021

I contributed to the development of the Pyret Programming Language, and published five research papers on error reporting, software testing, and human factors.

Selected Awards

Client Bug Bounty

Mozilla 2019

I discovered a security issue in Firefox's XSLT engine that enabled attackers to indefinitely execute JavaScript and make network requests (even with JavaScript disabled) *after* the tab was closed by the user.

Selected Projects

Rust Programming Language

I am passionate about expanding and leveraging Rust's language features to improve the safety and ergonomics of programming.

Safe Transmute Working Group

I co-lead the working group tasked with making bit-reinterpretation casts (e.g., `union`, `mem::transmute`) memory safe. I am the lead designer and author of the WG's RFC-2981.

Compiler Development

I was the implementor of RFC-2363, which permits fine-grain control over the memory layout of complex `enum` types; useful for C-interop and zero-copy parsing of network packets.

Open Source Libraries

I have authored and contributed to numerous Rust libraries and utilities. I am the lead maintainer of itertools, a popular (>16M downloads) library for ergonomic transformations and summarization of streams of data.

Pyret Programming Language

I contribute to Pyret, a programming language designed by computer science educators, for computer science education.

Error Messages

I designed and developed Pyret's unique hypertext error messages, which leverage hyperlinks, highlights and in-line code snippets, that guide novice programmers towards deeply understanding their errors.

Data Science Support

I designed and implemented Pyret's language-level support for manipulating tabular data.

Example-Driven Development

I developed and validated a cloud-hosted IDE for Pyret that encourages students to write input–ouput examples *before* they begin programming.

Evaluation at Scale

I developed infrastructure for assessing the quality of students' Pyret programs and test suites at massive scale on a distributed supercomputing cluster, and developed an analysis to validate the robustness of these assessments.

Digital Archival

Natural Language Processing

I published a digital remix of Brown University's authoritative dead-tree encyclopedia, which leveraged natural language processing to extract timelines and insert hyperlinks.

Digital Asset Management

I am currently developing a digital asset management system in Rust and Typescript to catalogue my archive of >5,000 photographs, oral histories and written accounts of Brown University alumni.