NickHeindl

Professional Experience

Activision | Blizzard - Raven Software Software Engineer
Associate Software Engineer

Feb 2018 - Present May 2016 - Feb 2018

- Unannounced AAA Title Single Player Engineering Team (C++, C-like scripting, Lua)
- Finalist in Activision-wide innovation competition. Pitched to Studio Heads, SVPs, EVP of CoD Business Unit, ...
- Work directly with designers to implement new features for our Single Player Campaign.
- Call of Duty Online Major Mode Gameplay Team (C++, C-like scripting)
- Create and maintain fresh game modes; Port modes/features from previous CoD titles.
- Developed an in-game automated testing tool to assist designers and map builders.
- Wrote an onboarding guide/FAQ for new engineering hires to get up to speed quickly.
- Designed/Implemented a player ranking system. Used live metrics to tune in-game reward/loot distribution.
- Architected and refactored multiple systems in our large, legacy, Frankenstein-of-a-codebase.

Flippfly Games Contract Engineer Spring 2016

• Helped port a prototype of Race The Sun to AppleTV. (tvOS, Unity3D, C#)

Activision | Blizzard - Raven Software

Software Intern

Summer 2015

- Call of Duty Online Major Mode Gameplay Team (C++, C-like scripting)
- Owned an engine internal tool to visualize weapon attachments.
- Optimized game critical systems and ported features from previous projects.
- Developed a variant of the most popular Player Vs. Environment (PvE) game mode.

Amazon.com - Amazon Web Services

Software Intern

Summer 2014

- Architected a "big data" scale metadata gathering and extraction service. (Java, Python, Bash, Javascript)
- Built a pipeline to gather millions of webpages, train, and tune datasets for machine learning analysis.
- Improved data accuracy by up to 300%; Resulted in vastly improved data quality and customer experience.

Mobile Learning Incubator

Software Intern

Summer 2013

- Open source iOS plant identification platform; Deployed to groups of ~100 students. (Objective-C)
- Worked with a partner to create an open source iOS audio cropper tool from scratch.
- Integrated two fresh apps into large existing Augmented Reality Game Platform codebase.

Selected Personal Games

Monologue@Trainjam

2015

- Typing game in html5/js with dynamic phrase generation; Built on a 3-day train from Chicago to San Francisco.
- Featured at Game Developers Conference (GDC), Gamejolt, Offworld, and Vsauce3.
- Currently has >90k Plays. Can you beat it? http://gamejolt.com/games/monologue/56005

Mosh Ball: Computer Graphics Project

2013

- Arena ball game made with a partner using C++, OpenGL, and Box2d for Physics.
- Features some Gooch Shaders, Perlin Noise Shaders, and Dynamic Shadows.

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Formal Education

University of Wisconsin - Madison

2016

- Majors: Computer Sciences & Linguistics
- Certificate: Game Development (Recipient of the first certificate ever to be handed out)
- Relevant Coursework: Data Structures, Machine Organization, Operating Systems, Compilers, Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence, Software Eng., Graphics, Virtual Reality, Game Design, Linear Algebra, Crypto., Info. Security

Community Involvement

International Game Developers Association Foundation

2017 - Present

- GDC Scholars Program Coordinator
- Work year-round to bring 18 talented students of all backgrounds and disciplines to GDC.

Undergraduate Projects Lab (UPL) https://uw-upl.github.io/about.html

2012 - 2016

- Coordinator in charge of creating events and facilitating student projects to help foster UW's CS community.
- Hosted numerous 50+ person hackathons, puzzlehunts, technical talks, and department sponsored roundtables.
- Mentor beginner hackers (at hacks and online) on new technologies, career opportunities, and how to survive CS.

Badger Game Network (BGN)

2013 - 2016

- Co-founder and overseer of UW Madison's student organization dedicated to game development.
- Organized a ~100 person game jam with support from major local studios.

Honors & Awards

Scholarships and Academics

- 2016: UW Madison Computer Science Department: 'Gold Brick' award for "unsung but critical tasks"
- 2015: International Game Developers Association (IGDA) GDC Scholarship:

1 of 18 scholars selected worldwide to attend the largest Game Developers Conference (GDC).

• 2015: UW - Madison: Dean's List

Hackathons

- 2014: BoilerMake @ Purdue: 2nd place overall out of 400+ hackers.
- 2013: hackMIT @ MIT: 'Best use of Weather Underground' & Boston Globe newspaper feature.
- 2012: facebook Hackathon @ UW Madison: Honorable mention (Best Game).

Other Competitions

- 2014: NEST Software Competition @ UW Madison: 2nd place overall & Wisconsin Idea Award
- 2013: Google Games Chicago: 3rd place overall & 1st place in puzzles; Youngest team to compete.
- 2013: NEST Software Competition @ UW Madison: Winner of Wisconsin Idea Award

Things that excite me:

- Golang Gardening git Outreach Rabbits Lego Linguistics Puzzles ProjectEuler hackernews •
- Cognitive Science Music/Raves Interactive Narrative Hackathons Language 💳 🌉 💽 📘 •