# NickHeindl

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# **Professional Experience**

Activision | Blizzard - Raven Software Software Engineer
Associate Software Engineer
Software Engineer Intern

Feb 2018 - Present May 2016 - Feb 2018 Summer 2015

#### Misc. Activision (ATVI)

- Led small team to finals in ATVI-wide innovation competition. Pitched to Studio Heads, Directors, and Execs.
- University Relations: Intern mentor; Onsite recruiting at schools across the country.

<u>Unannounced AAA Title(s)</u> Core Multiplayer Team; Campaign Team; 3rd Pillar Team (C++, C-like scripting)

- Engineering point of contact for player mechanics and movement.
- Coordinated with multiple studios and designers to lead refactor/simplification of widely used system.
- Helped prop up a modularized system for fast gameplay design and experimentation.

Call of Duty Black Ops IIII Engineering Support (C++, C-like scripting, Lua)

• Worked alongside other studios to implement core features.

Call of Duty Online Gameplay Engineering Team [SP/MP/Co-op](C++, C-like scripting)

- Worked with small team to create fresh modes; Port modes/features from previous CoD titles.
- Developed an in-game automated testing tool to assist designers and map builders on CoD's first Battle Royale.
- Wrote an onboarding guide/FAQ for new engineering hires to get up to speed quickly.
- Designed/Implemented player ranking system. Used live metrics to tune in-game reward/lootbox distribution.
- Architected and refactored multiple systems in our big, beautiful, legacy, Frankenstein-of-a-codebase.

# Flippfly Games Contract Engineer Spring 2016

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

#### 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, preexisting Augmented Reality Game Platform codebase.

# Selected Personal Games&Projects

## 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 >100k Plays.

#### Interactive Dance Environment@Boilermake

2014

- Award-winning hands-free "dance-to-code" programming IDE; Translate dance moves to Python!
- Made prototype with two others within 36 hours. (C#, Unity3D, Kinect and Leap Motion APIs)

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## Formal Education

## University of Wisconsin - Madison

2016

- Majors: Computer Sciences & Linguistics
- Certificate/Emphasis: Game Development (Helped create the certificate)
- 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 - 2018

- GDC Scholars Program Coordinator
- Worked 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:

- Gardening Outreach Rabbits Lego Linguistics Puzzles ProjectEuler hackernews Hackathons •
- Cognitive Science Music/Raves Interactive Narrative Language Acquisition 💳 🕍 🕒 📗 •









