LEO J. SMAT

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Expected May 2025
B.S. Computer Science and Economics GPA: 3.49/4.00
Saint Ignatius College Prep Chicago Graduated May 2021

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: C++, Python, Java, JavaScript, SQL, R, HTML, OCaml
Frameworks/Tools: Git, RStudio, Angular, Selenium, Flask, Bootstrap, Arduino, CSS, TypeScript

WORK EXPERIENCE

Midtown-Metro Achievement Center Chicago, IL
Lead Programming Instructor June 2024 – July 2024

- Designed 2-month curriculum and delivered discussions, demonstrations, and activities to over 60 students on programming concepts including basic encryption, security/authentication practices, networks, and more.
- Showcased engaging password-guessing and binary translation programs written in C and Python. Led the design and development of 20+ student projects, providing guidance and support while managing multiple project lifecycles.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Champaign, IL
Teacher's Associate January 2023 – January 2024

- Hosted weekly discussions of 15-20 students in Java topics like inheritance, encapsulation, and polymorphism. Taught object-oriented programming concepts and guided students through a full-stack application design final project.
- Provided 8+ hours per week of 1 on 1 tutoring and individually trained and mentored new teacher assistants.

Buzzpay LLC Chicago, IL
Software Engineer Intern May 2023 - August 2023

- Designed user interface to accept and showcase input for a chip & PIN card reader in C++ using Arduino IDE. Also developed a backend system to process input and seamlessly render relevant outputs on a physical LED display.
- Regularly communicated project milestones, detailing stages of development to project managers and incorporating suggestions into final deliverables.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Full-Stack Marketplace Web Application (Python, HTML/CSS/JS) August 2024 – Present

- Developing a full stack marketplace web application to connect buyers and sellers through an online platform, featuring user authentication and distinct components for marketplace viewing and posting.
- Employing Python's Flask library to manage backend operations, complemented with simplistic html templates and basic styling for a clean, user-friendly interface.

Music Genre ML Classifier (Python, R, HTML) April 2024

- Leveraged machine learning methods to design different models to analyze the efficiency of music genre prediction on a large dataset of geographic, socioeconomic, and linguistic parameters. Models included Bagging & Boosting Decision Trees and K-Nearest Neighbors, with most accurate models predicting test data correctly 60% of the time.
- Performed data retrieval and pre-processing with a Python script and employed RStudio and specific R libraries to construct ML models then structure a final comprehensive report into HTML format.

Cryptocurrency Market Data Feed (Python) March 2024

- Designed backend application to provide real-time trade information for given cryptocurrency symbols including reporting real-time trades & monitoring highest bids and lowest sell offers from the Deribit cryptocurrency API.
- Implemented WebSocket connections for efficient API communication, employed multi-threading techniques to manage concurrent subscription processes, & integrated heartbeat mechanisms for continuous connection stability.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP

Association for Computing Machinery – Mentor, *Champaign, IL* August 2024 - Present
Division II Ice Hockey - Starting Center, *Champaign IL* August 2021 - Present
Delta Tau Delta Fraternity - Technology Chair (2022), *Champaign IL* January 2022 - Present