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## Mihai Avram

GitHub: <a href="https://github.com/mihaivavram">https://github.com/mihaivavram</a> GoogleScholar:

https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Yb8DVskAAAAJ&hl=en

## **Objective**

Seeking opportunities in the development of solutions to pressing socio-technical problems using technology: Web Development, Full-Stack Development, and/or Machine Learning.

#### **Relevant Education**

<u>University of Illinois</u> in Urbana-Champaign, IL Ph.D. in Information Sciences Current (on one year break)

Indiana University in Bloomington, IN

Master of Science in Computer Science, GPA: 3.84/4.00

May 2018

May 2014

<u>Purdue University</u> in West Lafayette, IN Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, GPA: 3.20/4.00 Minors in Statistics, Sociology, and Management

# Web/Full-Stack Development Experience

PrivacyBrain: An automation platform and tool for scrubbing people's PII from the web (privacybrain.com)

Fall 2019 - Current

- Creating automation tools using Node.js, Puppeteer, Apify, Retool, and GitLab
- Leading the development effort, upholding DevOps best practices, and mentoring junior devs
- Brainstorming, researching, and taking part of the ideation effort to help with planning the project
- Taking part in research and development, reading relevant research literature, and assisting with grant applications

<u>Welsome</u>: A self-improvement and social impact platform to help us achieve our goals (welsome.org)

Spring 2019 - Current

- Sole founder and creator development, DevOps, and user interviews/marketing/finances/planning
- Taking part in the idea to product life-cycle such as market research, ideation, prototyping, and creation of the product
- Created the back-end in Django/PostgreSQL and front-end in Vue.js and Apache Cordova, all hosted on AWS

Fakey: A social media news literacy game (fakey.iuni.iu.edu)

Fall 2017 - Current

- Lead developer and creator of Fakey (Web, Android, iOS)
- Created Fakey using Vue.js, Django, MySQL, and Apache Cordova
- Took part in the research and ideation process for Fakey using fake-news and social computing findings and scientific publications
- Iterated and improved Fakey features by surveying stakeholders and presenting the project at various meetings and conferences
- Currently still supporting Fakey by improving features from user feedback, and fixing bugs
- Took part in various interviews and speaking events including with Poynter and EU DisinfoLab

OpenKasm: An AI based social media monitoring and reporting tool

Fall 2019 - Current

- Use data-mining techniques to obtain social media data
- Learn, interpret and implement state of the art machine learning methods for bot detection, all done in Python and R

4Castersports: Commission-free sports betting (4castersports.com)

Spring 2019 - Fall 2019

- Dev lead and freelancer of a small team in a start-up environment using agile development and sprints
- Building Node.js/MongoDB/Vue.js micro-services to integrate decentralized betting using the block-chain
- Taking part in the DevOps life-cycle of the product using the Google Cloud Platform, Mongo Atlas, CI/CD through GitLab, organization via Trello, and documentation via Notion

<u>Hoaxy</u>: Social media news/fake-news chatter analysis/visualization tool (hoaxy.iuni.iu.edu)

**Spring 2017 - Spring 2018** 

- Created Hoaxy news board and search functionality on the landing page using Python APIs and CRON jobs to automate recent news scraping to the site
- Took part in D3.js/Sigma.js optimizations in order to enable the visualization to render quicker
- Innovated new features and discussed bugs in weekly meetings to expedite the development process
- Created various features such as tooltips, animation timelines, and bot cache system using Bootstrap, JavaScript, HTML5, CSS3, and Sigma.js, and D3.js

ECHO Global Logistics: Job board creation

Spring 2016

Created a job board for ECHO Global Logistics using JavaScript and REST APIs

FHLBC Website: Proprietary banking application

Summer 2014 - Fall 2015

- Created and maintained the FHLBC website and its processes using C#, SQL Server, and Octopus Deploy
- Took part in fixing loan processing bugs, UI bugs, and creating triggers/stored procedures to extend bank processing functionality

#### **Research Experience**

University of Illinois: Urbana-Champaign, IL

Summer 2018 - Summer 2019

- Published <u>"Adversarial perturbations to manipulate the perception of power and influence in networks"</u> in (ASONAM 2019)
- Developed methodology and applied experimentation with Adversarial Learning on Social Networks
- Created a Python framework to enable simulations on any networks using any desired graphs, node positions, budgets, functions, and evaluation metrics/goals
- Mining for patterns in how people interact with misinformation on social media feeds using Fakey
- Assisted with writing grants and submitting preliminary work to conferences
- Crafted a rough draft of a publication for our work on patterns in how people interact with misinformation on social media feeds using Fakey
- Crafted a rough draft of a publication for our work on Adversarial Learning in Graphs
- Presented poster titled "Towards an open-source framework to assess the robustness of network structures and metrics to adversarial attacks and ascertain adversarial attack patterns" at the iSchool Corporate Showcase 2019 in Champaign, IL
- Presented poster titled "Adversarial perturbations for identifying strategies toward biasing the perceptions of power and influence in social networks" at the iSchool Research Showcase 2018 in Champaign, IL

Indiana University: Bloomington, IN

Fall 2016 - Summer 2018

- Completed my Master's Thesis funded by the Democracy Fund which involves the study and prevention of misinformation in social
  media by creating, using, and improving tools such as <u>Hoaxy</u>, <u>OSoMe</u>, <u>Botometer</u>, and a media literacy game called <u>Fakey</u>.
- Published "HarpLDA+: Optimizing Latent Dirichlet Allocation for Parallel Efficiency" (IEEE Big Data 2017) and "Finding and counting tree-like subgraphs using MapReduce" (IEEE TMSCS 2017) under professor Judy Qiu in the summer of 2017
- Created a Machine Learning MOOC under Professor Ying Ding for the IU <u>Data Science On-Ramp Program</u> in the summer of 2017
- Fact Checking: Awarded 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 2017 WSDM Cup and published the paper "RelSifter: Scoring Triples from Type-like Relations"
- Assisted in research discussions, manual data annotation, and building algorithm comparison as well as feature extraction tools using Python
- Presented relevant research to peers and collaborators
- Served as a Web Administrator for the IU Complex Networks and Systems WordPress website

University of Michigan: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Summer 2013

- Learned and implemented the Radiative Transport Equation (RTE) in three dimensions
- Created a Java applet to extrapolate the intensity of light in random media using the RTE
- Wrote a report in LaTeX explaining the RTE theory and how to use the Java applet

<u>Discovery Park Undergraduate Research Internship Program:</u>

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Spring 2013

- Analyzed journal articles, cleaned and mined data using Python, and ran analysis in R to discern our research results i.e. Civilians killed due to IDEs
- Published a Journal Article: "Civilian Deaths and the Iraq War: Who is Responsible?" in the Journal of Purdue Undergraduate
  Research

## **Industry Experience**

Avanade Consulting: Chicago, IL

2014 - 2016

- Took part in full application life-cycle (Requirements gathering, Application Development, Test Development Change, Deployment
  of Change, Support previous Deployments) as part of the Production Support team
- Learned an array of Microsoft technologies applicable to back-end data storage and data manipulation (SQL Server), middleware
  logic for large-scale Mortgage Banking applications (C#, PowerShell, Automation), front-end UI experience (HTML, JavaScript, CSS),
  as well as version control using Visual Studio Team Foundation Server
- Presented various technologies and projects to business users, communicated closely with clients, and assisted in "Live"
   Production critical failures bi-monthly
- Acquired a general idea of the full-stack development toolkit: Web Design, Application Design, UI/UX, Testing, Version Control, Analytics, Big Data, Reporting, Machine Learning, Data Mining, and Cloud

## **Leadership Experience**

Dev lead at PrivacyBrain: A privacy and security startup

Fall 2019 - Current

Project Lead for Welsome: A well being and social impact scheduling system

Spring 2019 - Current

Dev lead at 4castersports: A commission-free sports betting startup

Spring 2019 - Current

Indiana University: As a student/researcher in Bloomington, IN

Fall 2016 - Spring 2018

- Assisted undergraduates and fellow researchers with various problems regarding system/software configurations, problem formulations, research methods, and programming tips
- Coordinated and led/co-led meetings with regards to research projects or class projects

Avande Consulting: As a senior solutions developer in Chicago, IL

2014 - 2016

- Led and co-led meetings regarding production support tasks essentially co-ordinating and assigning tasks to offshore team members
- Briefly mentored incoming analysts with system/software configurations and programming tips

EPICS: (Engineering Projects in Community Service) at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

2010 - 2013

- Presented product prototype to stakeholders and collaborators, taking part in the decision-making process
- Coordinated meetings to discuss progress, issues, and goals. Constructed decision matrices, tested prototypes, and delivered the final project to the client

#### **Teaching Experience**

University of Illinois: As a Ph.D. student in Champaign, IL

Summer 2018

Served as a TA for a Network Analysis class for the 2018 Global Institute teaching program

#### **Volunteer Experience**

Code for America, Pro-Truth Pledge and Movement, Zooniverse, Outreach for NetSci 2017 conference, Aspire Foundation, Misericordia Heart of Mercy, Greater Chicago Food Repository, Habitat for Humanity, Run For Cause

### **Relevant Skills**

ES6:

\*\*\*\* Git: \*\*\*\* JavaScript: \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* Python: HTML5: CSS3: \*\*\*\* SQL: \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* MongoDB: WordPress: Bootstrap: \*\*\*\* Linux OS/Linux Bash: \*\*\*\* React: \*\*\*\* PHP: \*\*\*\* Vue.js: \*\*\*\* Django: \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* Apache Cordova: \*\*\*\* Node.js: \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* Docker: AWS: D3.js: \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* npm: \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* Machine Learning: Data Mining: \*\*\*\* Network Science: \*\*\*\* LaTeX: \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* NLP: Deep Learning: Hadoop: \*\*\*\* Cloud/Distributed Computing: \*\*\*\* Algorithms: \*\*\*\* C/C++: \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* Java: Microsoft Office: \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* Google Cloud Platform:

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