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

### Relevant Education (Distinguished Master's Thesis Award Recipient)

<u>Indiana University</u> in Bloomington, IN Master of Science in Computer Science, GPA: 3.84/4.00 May 2018

<u>Purdue University</u> in West Lafayette, IN Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, GPA: 3.20/4.00 Minors in Statistics, Sociology, and Management May 2014

# **Software Engineering Experience (Full Stack)**

ghSmart: Management Consulting Company (ghsmart.com)

Spring 2020 - Current

- Planning and executing on the architecture of a large-scale enterprise digital product
- Leading the development effort for text extraction, ETL, Data Mining, and Natural Language Processing
- Following DevOps and Agile best practices such as weekly timelines, CI/CD, documentation, and testing protocols
- Creating text extraction pipelines, text analytics, and visualizations using Python text libraries, NLP, SpaCy, and Elasticsearch

Welsome: 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
- Polishing a progressive mobile app using Quasar and Cordova

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

Fall 2017 - Current

- Lead developer and creator of Fakey (Web, Android, iOS)
- Usage is roughly 10 users interacting with 100 sessions per day, round 10,000 unique users, overed by various news sources
- 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
- Took part in various interviews and speaking events including with Poynter and EU DisinfoLab

Security Startup: A web automation and security platform

Fall 2019 - Spring 2020

- Creating automation tools using tools like Node.js, and Puppeteer
- 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

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 - Current

- Published "Exposure to Social Engagement Metrics Increases Vulnerability to Misinformation" in (The Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review, 2020 Issue)
- Published <u>"Effectiveness of the Execution and Prevention of Metric-Based Adversarial Attacks on Social Network Data"</u> in the (Journal of Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute 2020)
- Published "Adversarial perturbations to manipulate the perception of power and influence in networks" 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 <u>"RelSifter: Scoring Triples from Type-like Relations"</u>
- 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 <u>applet</u> 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

#### Discovery Park Undergraduate Research Internship Program:

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

<u>Dev Lead for ghSmart:</u> Information Extraction, Natural Language Processing, and NER

<u>Founder/Dev Lead for Welsome:</u> A well being and social impact scheduling system

<u>Dev lead at a Security Startup:</u> A privacy and security startup focused on web automation

<u>Dev lead at 4castersports:</u> A commission-free sports betting startup

<u>Dev lead at 4castersports:</u> As a student/researcher in Bloomington, IN

<u>Fall 2016 – Spring 2018</u>

- 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

- 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**

JavaScript:	****	Git:	****
HTML5:	****	Python:	****
CSS3:	****	SQL:	****
WordPress:	****	MongoDB:	****
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++:	****
R:	****	Java:	****
Microsoft Office:	****	Google Cloud Platform:	****
ES6:	****	Elasticsearch:	****