Mikhael Zacharias Thomas

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Philadelphia, PA

Education

University of Pennsylvania
May 2025

Master of Science - Computer Science (MCIT) | AI Innovation Award Recipient at Penn Hackathon 2024 — *GPA: 3.96/4.00*

Coursework: Distributed Systems, Databases, Algorithms, Operating Systems, Machine Learning

Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology
June 2021

Bachelor of Engineering - Mechanical Engineering | Merit Scholarship Recipient for Academic Excellence — *GPA: 3.58/4.00*

Technical Skills

Languages/Frameworks: Java, Python, C++, JavaScript, React, NodeJs, Django, gRPC

Databases/Tools: MySQL, ElasticSearch, MongoDB, AWS, Docker, Kubernetes, Kafka, PostgreSQL, Multithreading

Work Experience

Computational Social Listening Lab
June 2024 - August 2024

Software Developer — *Philadelphia, PA*

- Led the development of a voice bot/chatbot (under **Professor Lyle Ungar**) aimed at teaching conversational English to students, initially built with **Flask** and **MongoDB**
- Enhanced user experience and reduced development time for new features by **20%**, enabling faster deployment of functionalities, by transitioning to a **React** frontend and upgrading to a **Django** backend
- Enriched student learning by achieving a **25%** improvement in response accuracy and relevancy through the application of **Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)** to significantly enhance the bot's knowledge base
- Optimized content delivery, leading to a significant **35%** reduction in load times, by using **Amazon S3** for frontend hosting and **CloudFront** as a CDN for efficient distribution of static assets
- Designed and built a highly scalable backend system, capable of supporting over **500 users**, by deploying environments on **AWS Elastic Beanstalk**, thereby simplifying application management and updates
- Achieved fluid and responsive communication, as measured by a **70%** reduction in latency, by implementing **WebSockets** for real-time chatting functionality, enhancing the platform's interactive capabilities
- Executed trial runs in 4 schools across India and the US, gathering extensive user feedback from **50+** students

Xebia
July 2021 – June 2023

Software Developer — *New Delhi, India*

- Streamlined asset management processes, reducing deployment delays for new asset categories by **80%**, by creating a flexible framework using **SQL** and **Java Spring Boot** to automate data handling without the need for separate APIs
- Increased user productivity by **40%** by building a recent and frequent search feature, enabling customers to quickly access relevant information, thereby streamlining their workflow and enhancing overall efficiency
- Achieved **100%** consistent data validation by resolving a critical **race condition** issue between development and UAT environments, implementing separate databases for each to prevent conflicts
- Reduced load times by **25%** and improved information accuracy for the bank's staff by revamping data retrieval using **SQL indexing**, **Elasticsearch pagination** and developing data filters

National Institute of Advanced Studies
June 2019 - July 2019

Summer Research Intern — *Bangalore, India*

- Conducted a literature review of 5+ research papers to analyze their applications in image processing
- Explored the integration of Chaos Theory with Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) using Tensorflow

Projects & Leadership Experience

Penn Cloud | C++, gRPC
November 2024 - December 2024

- Designed and implemented a distributed cloud platform inspired by Google's BigTable model, providing scalable and reliable services for users to upload, manage, and store files while also supporting email functionalities
- Developed robust crash recovery mechanisms using periodic checkpointing and server synchronization
- Ensured fault tolerance and data consistency through primary replication with sequential consistency

Serenity - Video Conferencing with Empathy | React, Flask
April 2024

- Developed a full stack application integrating Zoom video conferencing with real-time emotion analysis and feedback generation using Hume and OpenAI APIs
- Awarded the Best .Tech Domain Name at the 2024 DragonHacks Hackathon

IEEE NSIT, Student Branch | General Secretary
July 2019 – April 2020

- Organized the NSIT Hackathon with more than 700 registrations from all over the country
- Recipient of the **IEEE WIE Outstanding Student Volunteer Award** 2019-2020