

Owen Hochwald

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Education

The University of British Columbia
BS in Computer Science — Minor Data Science
◦ **GPA: 4.3/4.3**

Expected Graduation:
November 2026

Experience

Software / Machine Learning Engineer Intern
Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C.
June 2023 – Aug 2023

- Developed and deployed a **sentiment classification API** with **FastAPI** and **TensorFlow**, **automating** customer reporting classification and **reducing response times by 30%**, enhancing customer satisfaction.
- Streamlined the **software development lifecycle** by documenting and optimizing processes, **reducing project completion time by 20%** and **increasing overall productivity by 15%**.

Projects

Shakespeare GPT: Ever wanted infinite plays?

[Code](#) [🔗](#)

- Built deep learning models (**bigram** & **GPT-like**) with **PyTorch** to generate Shakespearean text, achieving a **4x reduction in training loss**, enhancing text coherence and creativity.
- Implemented **character-level tokenization** to improve **processing efficiency by 30%**, enabling faster text generation and model training

Student Connect [nwHacks 2025]

[Hackathon Post](#) [🔗](#)

- Collaborated with a team of 4 to build a web platform using **Next.js**, **TypeScript**, and **Tailwind CSS** that connects university students via video chat.
- Designed and implemented a **Firebase database** for secure user authentication and efficient data handling.
- Developed **WebRTC** functionality for **real-time low latency, client-to-client video communication** with random matchmaking.

Aftrbrnr - Open Sourced Company Wide Time Tracking

[Website](#) [🔗](#) — [Code](#) [🔗](#)

- Designed and implemented a full-stack web app with **NextJS**, and **TypeScript** increasing user engagement through intuitive UI and efficient client-server communication.
- Integrated robust **security features** with **NextAuth**, improving authentication reliability, ensuring safe and seamless user experience.
- Deployed the app on **Vercel**, leveraging **cloud scalability** to handle user traffic.

Pawsture Pal Chrome Extension

[Extension](#) [🔗](#) — [Code](#) [🔗](#)

- Developed a **Chrome extension** with **JavaScript** to promote better posture habits and productivity among users with friendly cat reminders.
- Implemented features such as **personalized reminders**, stretching exercises, and **activity timers**.
- Published the extension to the **Chrome Web Store**, attracting over **100 downloads within the first month**.

Technologies

Languages: Python, JavaScript, Java, TypeScript, CSS & HTML5

Developer Tools: Google Cloud Platform, Git, Prisma, Azure, Jira, Firebase, Vercel

Libraries/Frameworks: Pytorch, TensorFlow, Numpy, Pandas, ReactJS, NextJS, PostgreSQL, FastAPI