Prajakta Pikale

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign | Illinois, United States   Aug 2024 - Dec 2025
Master of Computer Science
Coursework (Fall 2024): User-Interface Design, Database Systems, ML for Software Engineering

Vishwakarma Institute of Information Technology | Pune, India   Aug 2017 - May 2021
Bachelor of Technology in Computer Engineering   GPA: 9.49/ 10

EXPERIENCE

Expedia Group | Software Development Engineer   May 2023 – July 2024

- Developed a full-stack **data analytics web application**, creating a dynamic frontend using **React** for user interaction and **data visualization**, including **Tableau** dashboards integration, supported by a **Node.js** backend.
- Built an interactive dashboard to visualize core business **KPIs** (e.g. monthly and weekly recurring data) by integrating data into **Material-UI React** Table and using **Highcharts**, while saving 10 hours of manual work per week and enabling **data-driven business decisions.**
- Designed and maintained **new features** and **APIs**, optimized APIs ensuring response times to stay under **100ms** for real-time insights, and effectively addressed **software bugs** to optimize user experience.
- Automated **GitHub Actions** for CI/CD pipelines, collaborated on version control via GitHub, and streamlined workflows for **code deployment** using **Jenkins**, **Docker** and **Kubernetes.**

Cognizant Technology Solutions | Programmer Analyst   Sep 2021 – Mar 2023

- Contributed to building the **frontend** of a web application for one of the largest Swedish **insurance companies**, streamlining internal team management processes using **React.**
- Implemented **Redux** and **React Hooks** for state management and handled **API calls**, optimizing an API endpoint to achieve a **15% faster** round-trip time.

PROJECTS

Quora Clone | React, Redux, Node.js, Express.js, MongoDB   Apr 2023

- Built a full-stack Quora Clone, a **social question-and-answer application** replicating key features of **Quora**.
- Integrated **authentication** using **Nodemailer** and **Passport.js JWT** strategy with **Google Sign-In**.
- Utilized **Context API** and **Redux** for state management, **react-router** for routing, and **React Hooks** for reusable logic.
- Developed **API logic** with **Node.js**, employing **Mongoose** to define schemas, manage data, and perform **CRUD** operations in MongoDB.

Fitness Exercise Application | React, Material UI   Jan 2023

- Built and deployed a **React-based Fitness Exercise Application** featuring:
  - **Search functionality** for exercises by muscle group or equipment, with **Pagination** for result display.
  - Browsing through **1000+ exercises**, each with detailed information and embedded **YouTube video links**.
- Leveraged **Material UI** for an engaging and responsive **user interface** and **RapidAPI** to fetch data and access API endpoints.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: C++, JavaScript, Python, SQL   **Frontend:** React, Redux, Figma, HTML, CSS
Developer Tools: Git, Jenkins, Postman, Docker, Kubernetes, VS Code   **Backend:** Node.js, Express.js, MySQL, MongoDB

ACTIVITIES

- Course Assistant at UIUC: CS105 Introduction to Computing
- Developed a website of the cultural and technical fest of the university
- Technical Head at Computer Society of India, VIIT
- Secretary at VIIT Alumni Association
- State level winner in Gama Abacus Mental Arithmetic Contest