

**Pranay Prakash**

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**Preliminary**

- Born on 10/16/1997 in **Rustaq, Oman** (a very small town in the Middle East)
- Studied at Indian School Al Ghubra from Kindergarten through High School (<http://indianschool.com/>)
- Came to the USA in 2015 to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (#4 in the field)
- Expecting to graduate in December 2018 (less than 4 years)
- Applied for OPT beginning in January 2019 and plans to apply for the STEM extension after that

**National or International awards for excellence**

- Consistently placed in the top 500 (peaking at #2) at International Computer Science Olympiads through schooling

**Published Material about you**

- <https://dailyillini.com/features/2016/02/29/university-students-try-their-hand-at-entrepreneurship/>
- <http://2016.omanobserver.om/isg-students-win-accolades-at-mitmunc>
- <https://timesofoman.com/article/52608>

**You have commanded a high salary or other remuneration and****You have made original contributions of major significance in your field**

- I worked with friends at my university on multiple projects, including being invited to and winning numerous Hackathons at other universities including Yale and Princeton (<https://devpost.com/pranaygp>)
- In 2017, I interned at Facebook to work on GraphQL, working on revolutionising the industry alongside other notable people in the industry like Lee Byron (<https://twitter.com/leeb>) and Daniel Woelfel (<https://twitter.com/DanielWoelfel>). GraphQL has since become a major development in the tech industry. For example (<https://techcrunch.com/2018/11/06/facebooks-graphql-gets-its-own-open-source-foundation/>). During this time, Facebook paid me \$8K/month + benefits
- After my success at Facebook, they made me an offer for a \$150K+ salary and a \$75K bonus (significantly higher than most new grads from college). I'm turning down this offer to pursue my own startup at the moment.
- After Facebook, I spent the next year at university working under Prof. Beckman (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mattoxbeckman>) on a research project which culminated in a presentation (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvTsx9i13o>) and a paper (not yet published)
- Summer of 2018, I worked at ZEIT (<https://zeit.co>) on developing a new platform for serverless docker deployments, an up and coming industry standard being worked on by companies like Google and Amazon. I wrote a press release

- (<https://zeit.co/blog/serverless-docker>) and gave a talk (<https://youtu.be/N-5TNKJ7eB0?t=88>) releasing ZEIT's superior platform.
- My success at ZEIT fetched me an offer from ZEIT to join as Vice President or Product Strategy with a \$200K+ salary (including significant stock options at the company). I'm turning down this offer to pursue my own startup at the moment.

**You have performed in a leading or critical role for distinguished organizations and You have attained membership in associations that require outstanding achievement for admission**

- A member of ACM (<https://www.acm.org>) a leading academic organisation in the field of Computer Science.
- Chair or Webmonkeys, a Special Interest Group (SIG) within the UIUC student chapter of ACM, expanding education efforts for web programming and organising events at the University.
- Got accepted into the very first Pioneer program (<https://pioneer.app>) by Daniel Gross ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel\\_Gross\\_\(software\\_entrepreneur\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Gross_(software_entrepreneur))) funded by top engineers and experts in the field (<https://pioneer.app/experts>). I was one of 20 people accepted into the program from over 2000+ contestants
- Joined the elite group of YC (<https://ycombinator.com>) founders in 2018 (for the Winter 2019 batch) which comes a \$150K investment and mentorship for my startup.

**Commercial success (as shown by sales, ratings or similar indicators);**

- In 2011, I was contracted to rewrite a website for Vichitr, a media firm in India (<http://vichitr.com/>). The service I wrote is still in use with their clients, including the likes of Microsoft and Infosys
- In 2014, I began to rewrite my school's website, and after showing them security flaws in their version at the time, they agreed to use my version, cancelling a large contract they signed in the process.
- I wrote a very famous tool for developers called CSS Peek (<https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=pranaygp.vscode-css-peek>) which has been downloaded over 300K times to date and has multiple articles published about it
  - <https://tutorialzine.com/2017/06/15-essential-plugins-for-visual-studio-code>
  - <https://medium.freecodecamp.org/immensely-upgrade-your-development-environment-with-these-visual-studio-code-extensions-9cd790478530>
  - <https://zellwk.com/blog/vscode-2/>
  - And many more...

**You have written articles in your field;**

- <https://medium.com/@pranaygp/more-uiuc-apis-fe0df5e299c1>
- <https://zeit.co/blog/deploy-github-forks>
- <https://zeit.co/blog/inside-now-github-errors>
- <https://zeit.co/blog/now-for-github>
- <https://zeit.co/blog/dockerignore>
- <https://zeit.co/blog/http2-uploads>
- <https://zeit.co/blog/serverless-docker>

- README-less Setup (hasn't been published yet)