Richard Álvarez

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About Me

I combine IT support experience with a background in film production to work effectively on creative and technical teams. I communicate clearly, adapt to diverse workflows, and contribute to solutions that are both functional and engaging. I enjoy singing in a band, cycling, and reading.

Education

Kenyon College   Aug 2020 – May 2024
Bachelor of Arts in Film; GPA: 3.4/4.0   *Gambier, OH*
Minor in History; Concentration in Integrated Program in Humane Studies

Authored two papers on machine learning in creative industries. Produced and edited 15+ experimental video projects. Coursework included Senior Research Seminar, AI for the Humanities, Data Structures & Program Design, Software Development, and *IPHS 200 Programming Humanity*.

Work Experience

Freelance Web Developer   Remote
Self-Employed   *2020 – Present*

Design, build, and maintain custom web applications for clients in creative and commercial industries. Translate business needs into responsive, high-performance websites. Provide technical documentation and training as needed.

- Built a full-stack e-commerce platform for a skate brand using Next.js, Tailwind CSS, and Node.js, with Stripe API integration and secure checkout.
- Developed a dynamic portfolio site for a cinematographer with a custom CMS and optimized video hosting via DigitalOcean.
- Created GRE vocabulary flashcard app using LangChain + OpenAI, with authentication and persistent user data.
- Delivered sites with 95%+ Lighthouse scores, focused on speed, accessibility, and mobile optimization.

Competition Support Engineer   Multiple Locations
BDPA High School Coding Competition · Volunteer   *Apr 2024 – Present*

Set up 18 laptops for a coding competition for nine youth teams, including OS flashing and hardware configuration. Managed troubleshooting requests during the live event and supported faculty and judges on technical setup. Assisted in inventory management and system checks pre/post competition.

LEGO STEM Instructor   Chicago, Illinois
Play-Well TEKnologies · Part-time   *Oct 2024 – Dec 2024*

Taught STEM-focused LEGO classes to children, introducing engineering and problem-solving concepts through hands-on activities. Managed classroom engagement, ensured safety, and adapted instruction to diverse learning styles. Communicated effectively with parents and staff to provide updates and address concerns.

IT Assistant   Gambier, OH
Kenyon College Library & Information Services · Part-time   *Sep 2023 – Feb 2024*

I supported campus-wide technology needs by preparing workstations, moving office tech, and securely erasing and recycling equipment. I restocked printers daily. I demolished hard drives. I conducted classroom checks under the guidance of team members. I streamlined team projects by applying programming skills, in one instance by generating a spreadsheet of course meetings and classroom locations to determine when our techs could perform maintenance.

Skills

Customer Service: Troubleshooting, clear communication, in-person and remote support, teamwork under pressure
Technical Skills: Windows 10/11, device setup, printers, AV equipment, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, ServiceNow
Digital Tools: Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, CMS platforms, basic Adobe Suite, data entry and organization
Organization: Time management, task tracking, inventory handling, safety protocols
Creative Work: Video editing, web content updates, social media assets, visual presentation

Web Projects

Joaquin Morales   Jun 2025
Portfolio   *joaquinmoralesdp.com*

Designed and deployed a dynamic portfolio site for a professional cinematographer. The project used Next.js for high performance, with Tailwind CSS for responsive design. Implemented a custom CMS to enable efficient content updates, managing galleries and testimonials with ease. Leveraged DigitalOcean S3 storage for scalability and fast load times for video and photo content.

Machine Television   Oct 2024
Online Store   *machinetelevision.com*

Developed a functional e-commerce platform for an independent skate brand. The site was built using Next.js and Tailwind CSS for an intuitive front-end, paired with Node.js for a robust back-end infrastructure. Integrated Stripe API for seamless payment processing, optimizing user workflows across desktop and mobile.

GREasyVocab Flashcards   Jul 2024
Web App   *Inactive*

Created a personalized GRE vocabulary tool powered by OpenAI's APIs. The application leverages LangChain to provide personalized prompts tailored to user inputted data. Developed a secure full-stack system with user authentication and database management, ensuring a smooth and customized learning experience.

Publications

A Retrieval-Augmented Film Recommendation System   May 8th 2024
Digital Kenyon   GitHub

Utilized LangChain's OpenAI integration to dynamically generate queries based on user preferences. Developed using Node.js and integrated with the OMDb and TMDb APIs to enhance movie metadata, delivering precise recommendations.

Captivating Video Editing Secrets   May 23rd 2023
Digital Kenyon   GitHub

Analyzed short-format video editing trends using PySceneDetect and Deep Neural Networks for unsupervised clustering, uncovering editing patterns and creative decisions.

Certificates

CompTIA ITF+ *Sep 2024*
CompTIA Security+ *In Progress*