Rico Chen

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EDUCATION

University at Buffalo — Buffalo, NY
Computer Science B.S., Minor in Cybersecurity — *Aug. 2022 – Dec. 2025*
Cumulative GPA: 3.9/4.0

EXPERIENCE

Fitness Monitor — Aug. 2023 – Dec. 2025
University at Buffalo — *Buffalo, NY*
- Greet members and verify identities using an electronic ID scanning system, ensuring secure and efficient access
- Informed customers about new programs and benefits, helping increase engagement and participation

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant — Aug. 2024 – May. 2025
University at Buffalo — *Buffalo, NY*
- Led weekly office hours to support students in mastering core algorithms, including dynamic programming and greedy strategies
- Simplified algorithmic concepts through customized analogies and diagrams based on students' learning style
- Streamlined grading and coursework management for 300+ students to improve turnaround

IT Specialist — Nov. 2020 – Jan. 2022
New York Chinese School — *New York, NY*
- Maintained school website using GoDaddy WebBuilder, managing content revisions and layout updates.
- Refactored website structure and assets, improving page load performance by 200%
- Streamlined data entry processes in Excel for K–5 student promotion records across New York State

PROJECTS

PlayBoy | *React, TypeScript, PHP, PostgreSQL* — Feb. 2025 – May. 2025
- Architected a full-stack music sharing platform within an Agile framework, coordinating with a team of five to meet sprint deadlines and manage version control via Git
- Engineered responsive user interfaces from Figma mockups using TypeScript with React, ensuring cross-browser accessibility
- Developed robust backend services in PHP and PostgreSQL to manage user authentication, complex media uploads, and real-time social networking features
- Orchestrated deployment to production servers, optimizing for performance, scalability, and reliability

8San | *Flask, Pillow, FFmpeg, Mongodb, Docker* — Oct. 2024 – Nov. 2024
- Engineered a real-time social networking platform utilizing WebSockets to facilitate bidirectional communication, effectively eliminating message delivery latency
- Designed a flexible schema in MongoDB to handle unstructured social media data and media metadata efficiently
- Hardened application security by implementing Flask-Security, robust password hashing algorithms, and strict input sanitization to mitigate critical vulnerabilities

AR WhiteBoard | *Flask, TailWind, numPy, MediaPipe, Opencv* — Nov. 2024 – Nov. 2024
- Developed a gesture controlled drawing application by integrating MediaPipe and OpenCV for sophisticated hand-tracking and real-time interaction
- Optimized gesture recognition accuracy by 100% through refined coordinate mapping and NumPy based mathematical transformations
- Implemented a dynamic state management system for features such as eraser mode and a live color palette, significantly enhancing user accessibility

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Java, Python, C Programming Language, C++, PHP, JavaScript, Go
Frameworks/Libraries: React, Next.js, Node.js/Express, Flask, pandas, NumPy
Tools & DevOps: CI/CD pipelines, Git, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS (Lambda, S3, Cognito), PostgreSQL, MongoDB