Renos Kerkides

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Summary

Award-winning MSc Software Development graduate from the University of Glasgow, honoured with the IT+ Project Prize for the outstanding MSc project of the year. Passionate about full-stack web and mobile app development, proficient in Django, React, and React Native, and experienced in managing the complete software development lifecycle, from concept through to deployment. Driven by a desire to solve complex problems through creative and impactful solutions. Eager to contribute technical expertise and innovative thinking to a growth-focused organisation.

Education

University of Glasgow   September 2023 – September 2024
MSc Software Development
- Degree Classification: *Distinction* (GPA: 21/22)
- IT+ Project Prize: Awarded for the outstanding MSc project of each academic year within the IT+ cohort (MSc Software Development and MSc Information Technology).
- Relevant Courses: Advanced Programming, Algorithms and Data Structures, Database Theory and Analytics, Enterprise Cyber Security, Programming, Software Engineering, Systems and Networks, Internet Technology, Human Computer Interaction, MSc Team Project, MSc Project.
- Achieved at least an *A5* (equivalent to Distinction) in every single course, demonstrating a consistent high level of academic excellence throughout the MSc programme.

Loughborough University   September 2020 – July 2023
BSc (Hons) Business Psychology
- Degree Classification: *First-class Honours*
- Relevant Courses: Information and Knowledge Management, Behavioural Decision Science, Consumer Behaviour, Brain and Behaviour, Work Psychology, Leading and Developing Others, Organizational Behaviour, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Human Cognition.

Main Projects

- *MindfulProgress*
  - Architected a **dual-interface** mental health support platform integrating a **mobile** mHealth application with a therapist-centric **web** interface.
  - Developed the mobile application using **React Native** and **Expo SDK**, implementing features such as mood tracking, exercises, and a personalized 'Safe-Space' for crisis management.
  - Designed and implemented the web interface with **ReactJS**, using **TypeScript** for enhanced code maintainability and leveraging **Material-UI** for a responsive, user-friendly experience.
  - Built the backend using **Django** and **PostgreSQL**, focusing on scalable data management, and integrated **Django Channels** and **Redis** to support real-time **WebSocket** communications for live notifications.
  - Optimized background task management by integrating **Celery** with **Redis**, facilitating asynchronous processing for notifications, data analysis, and automated task scheduling.
  - Achieved a mean **System Usability Scale (SUS)** score of 78.3, reflecting a high level of technical effectiveness in user experience design and implementation.
  - Deployed the backend on **Heroku** and the frontend on **Netlify**, employing **CI/CD practices** to ensure robust, scalable, and performant deployment in production environments.
  - Awarded the prestigious **IT+ Project Prize** for the **best MSc project of the year** in the entire IT+ cohort (MSc Software Development and MSc Information Technology), reflecting a combination of innovation, technical competence, and academic excellence.

- *Personal Website*
  - Engineered a personal website using **React** with **Vite** to leverage its component-based architecture.
  - Implemented **UI features** such as a dynamic typing effect and interactive cards for user engagement.
  - Utilized **Tailwind CSS** and **Bootstrap** to design a visually appealing and **responsive** user interface, ensuring quick customization and consistency across all pages of the website.
  - Deployed on **Netlify**, also optimizing website performance and scalability in a production environment.

- *LearnHub*
  - Developed a dynamic learning platform using **Django**, enabling users to explore, create, and manage educational content across a variety of topics.
  - Designed a user-friendly interface with **Django's templating system**, providing a cohesive and intuitive user experience that promotes content interaction.
  - Implemented **complex data models** to handle categories, posts, comments, and user profiles, facilitating efficient data operations and interaction dynamics within the platform.
  - Incorporated **search capabilities**, allowing users to efficiently search through posts and categories, enhancing the discoverability of educational content.
  - Deployed the application on a **cloud platform**, demonstrating expertise in deploying and managing web applications in a live environment.

- *Duelyst II Clone*
  - Quickly developed a functional clone of the Duelyst II game under **tight deadlines**.
  - Effectively applied **agile practices** to adapt to **changing requirements** and priorities, facilitating **collaboration** and iterative improvements throughout the development cycle.
  - Navigated through complex game logic, **AI** and software engineering challenges, ensuring the game was playable despite the **codebase's complexity** and initial disorganization.
  - Successfully **integrated** a pre-existing **frontend** with the newly developed **Java backend**, ensuring seamless data flow between the client-side and server-side components.

- *Portfolio*
  - Utilized **Django's advanced template system** to ensure a uniform style across the site while maximizing code reusability and maintainability.
  - Implemented an **SQLite database** for efficient storage and retrieval of project details and blog posts, optimizing data handling processes.
  - Successfully deployed the application on **PythonAnywhere**, demonstrating proficiency in **cloud-based hosting** and application deployment strategies.

- *Teacher Resource Management System*
  - Architected a **Java**-based teacher management system, incorporating **object-oriented programming** to facilitate efficient data handling and user management.
  - Implemented robust, flexible, and scalable **data persistence** through Java **serialization**, ensuring reliable storage and retrieval of educational data.
  - Implemented **design patterns** such as **Singleton** and **DAO**, and utilized **dependency injection** in service layer design, promoting loose coupling and ease of **unit testing**.
  - Designed **UML Sequence** and **Class Structure Diagrams**, providing a clear architectural blueprint and facilitating understanding of data flow and system behaviour.

Skills

- **Languages**: Java, JavaScript/HTML/CSS, TypeScript, Python, Assembly (Sigma-16)
- **Frameworks**: Django, React, React Native, Spring Boot
- **Database Management**: SQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite
- **Scripting and Shell**: Bash, PowerShell
- **Tools**: Git, Linux, Maven, Vite, Node.js, Thymeleaf, Material UI, Bootstrap, Tailwind CSS, UML, Expo SDK, Redis, Celery