Summary: Hi, I am Sammy. I have 4+ years of experience as a full stack software engineer. In my next role I am looking to work with intelligent, empathetic, and focused team members.

I have experience with frontend and backend development. For frontend development I prefer to use React, Next JS, Tailwind CSS, and TypeScript in my stack. For backend development I prefer to use Python, FastAPI, and PostgresSQL.

Some career achievements include winning hackathon three times at Zumper, switching careers from Mechanical Engineering to Software engineering, and receiving top marks on all of my peer reviews.

Zumper backend project: won hackathon by implementing a new admin dashboard for our SEO content service. This dashboard was built with React and Vite, and greatly simplified the frontend architecture. It saved our internal users 5+ minutes per paragraph created. This content was consumed by our locale guide on every detail page across the site (100,000s of pages).

Zumper backend project: scraped cost of living data utilizing Scrapy. It would create a CSV from that data, and then could be consumed via API (Python, FastAPI) and stored in our DynamoDB database.

Zumper backend project: consumed AWS SQS queue and saved the data in our postgres database, which was then consumed by a rent research page to show details to users trying to understand a locations rental trends.

Zumper frontend project: implemented multiple react components using redux, chakra ui, typescript with focus on rendering them server side for improved performance when searching listings.

Zumper frontend project: improved our frontend deploy process by 30+ mins by introducing automatic release branches.

Zumper frontend project: switch our client side apps and express servers to Sentry for logging. Switching from rollbar which saved $100+/month.

Zumper frontend project: built a page with react, useSWR, and chakra ui to allow property managers to bid for higher spots in our search algorithm ultimately winning hackathon

Zumper frontend project: built a new building form which was a complex flow allowing for property managers to input data and onboard their properties onto the platform. This was built with React, formik, redux-saga, and CSS modules. During this I implemented standard components in our new component library to be used across multiple apps and championed the usage of a standard component library.

Latest side project: I built a side project named "Terminal" which exports tools to build a Retrieval-Augments Generation app. Its is written with python on the backend. Terminal (my side project) processes a folder of PDF's, chunks, embeds, and saves them to a vector database (pgvector). Terminal (my side project) also exports a processor which can take a user or agent query and retrieve relevant data from the PDFs it embedded and saved to the vector database. Terminal code (my side project) can be found in the github repo here: https://github.com/sammydowds/terminal

Side project: A virtual me (called Cyber Sammy) to answer questions about my career. It is a chat bot built with Terminal (one of my side projects which helps build a Rretrieval-Augmented generation app). The stack for Cyber Sammy includes Next JS (App Router), tailwind css, FastAPI, pgvector, and OpenAI. The github repo can be found here: https://github.com/sammydowds/terminal/tree/main/examples/cybersammy

Side project: Cyber Split is a Next JS app to generate and view one month weight training splits. It is built with Shadcn, tailwind css, typescript, React, and react-pdf.

My educational background includes a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from Oklahoma State University where I accomplished Dean's honor roll 3 times and President's honor roll 4 times. I excelled at system dynamics and computer methods while at Oklahoma State.

I switched careers from Mechanical Engineering to Software Engineering in October of 2020.

In 2024, I took a bit of a break in Q1 to focus on my health after being laid off one week before Christmas in 2023. In Q2 of 2024 I tried to start a workout and fitness company focused on building a workout habit called Sweat.sh. In Q3-Q4 of 2024, I focused on some public projects (Cyber Split and Terminal) and applying to jobs.