Sawyer Pollard

16 Barrett Hill Drive, PO Box 1684, Amherst, MA 01002
spollard24@amherst.edu | sawyerpollard.com | github.com/sawyerpollard

EDUCATION

Amherst College, Amherst, MA **Expected May 2024**

- *Prospective Bachelor of Arts in Physics and Computer Science*
- Computer Science GPA: 3.92/4.00
- Relevant Coursework: Artificial Intelligence, Algorithms, Data Structures, Abstract Algebra, Linear Algebra, Linguistics, Mathematical Logic, Wave Theory (Teaching Assistant), Multivariable Calculus

EXPERIENCE

Zotero, *Software Engineering Intern*, New York, NY **June 2022 - August 2022**

- Added **LaTeX** support, a long requested feature, to the Zotero note editor
- Upgraded the **Webpack** build system for the Zotero note editor, improving build time and reducing build size
- Extensively used **Git** and GitHub Pull Requests to iterate these features with the Zotero team

The Amherst Student, *Digital Director*, Amherst, MA **September 2021 - Present**

- Architected a new website for the nation's oldest weekly college newspaper
- **Open-source and built with Next.js, React, TypeScript, TailwindCSS, Webpack, Cloudflare Pages**
- Manages a team of student designers and developers through weekly one hour meetings to optimize the web experience

IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, *Researcher*, Yorktown Heights, NY **July 2019 - September 2019**

- Assisted the OpenScale team design novel ways to explain machine learning models to end-users
- Engineered Xplain, a model agnostic system for generating contrastive AI explanations, in **Python**
- Employed a **Monte Carlo simulation**, data normalization, and multi-dimensional distance to help users better understand the predictions of computer models

IBM Watson Astor Place, *Researcher*, Astor Place, New York, NY **June - August, 2017 and 2018**

- Used **Python** and Stanford's **CoreNLP** to filter thousands of Reddit comments by generating parse trees
- Generated and annotated a training set of question-answer Reddit comments for use in improving named-entity recognition in machine learning algorithms
- Implemented IBM's Watson Assistant in Twitch via **Node.js** and the Internet Relay Chat protocol
- Developed a conversation tree and **MongoDB** system that allowed users to send tips to streamers

PROJECTS AND SKILLS (links to GitHub and personal website in header)

Blackbox **January 2023**

- Developed a Chrome Extension with **TypeScript, React, Webpack, and TailwindCSS** that allows users to leave comments on any webpage
- Built an efficient server in **Go** with the **Fiber** web framework and **GORM** object-relational mapper
- Deployed server and SQL database to Heroku

Crossy **August 2022**

- Built a full-featured crossword client for the web, inspired by The New York Times
- Designed to scale across desktop and mobile screens and compatible with a standard puzzle format
- Built with **React, TypeScript, Webpack, and TailwindCSS**

MineWeather **February 2021**

- Developed a Chrome Extension in **TypeScript** that dynamically adjusts the New Tab page based on the current weather
- Asynchronously queries the OpenWeather API and Geolocation API to display a scene from Minecraft based on eight different weather conditions
- Received **60,000+** likes on Reddit and Instagram; has over **8,000** active users and **80** five-star ratings

General Software Skills: **Proficient:** Modern JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML, CSS, Webpack, React, TailwindCSS, Go, Java, Python, Git, Linux, Postgres, SQL, Node.js, Express, Mathematica; **Working Knowledge:** Rust, Docker, Maven, Numpy,, Hapi, GraphQL, MongoDB, Redis, AWS, Google Cloud Platform