Souleiman Benhida

15 Winter St. Burlington MA
souleiman@souleiman.com | (617) 615-9609 | Github: soule | souleiman.com

EDUCATION

Cornell University Ithaca, NY **2017–**

- College of Engineering; Intended Major: Computer Science; Expected Graduation: 2021
- Relevant coursework: Object-Oriented Programming and Data Structures, Discrete Structures

Burlington High School Burlington, MA **2013-2017**

- GPA: 4.49/4
- Relevant coursework: AP Computer Science A, AP Calculus BC, AP Physics C, AP Statistics

WORK EXPERIENCE

Elance

Freelance iOS developer June-September 2013

- Worked on improving functionality and UI of iOS weather application
- Techonologies used: Objective-C, Xcode, iOS SDK

PROJECTS

TimeDojo

- Developed productivity tracking website that users to log work sessions and compete with friends
- Made with Ruby on Rails, JS, jQuery, CSS, Bootstrap
- (http://www.timedojo.com)

PHP & AJAX Store Locator

- Developed and sold application allowing developers to quickly integrate store location functionality.
- Technologies used: PHP, MySQL, jQuery, Google Maps API.
- Previously featured on the Binpress marketplace; strong reviews
- (http://www.binpress.com/app/php-amp-ajax-store-locator/544)

Air Pod

- Developed open-source iOS game formerly published on App Store
- Technologies used: Objective-C, Xcode, Game Center integration, Sparrow Framework
- (http://github.com/soule/AirPod)

LANGUAGES/FRAMEWORKS

- Primary: **Java**
- Web Development: **PHP, HTML, MySQL, JS, jQuery,** Ruby on Rails
- Mobile Development: **iOS SDK, Objective-C**

ACTIVITIES

- Programming Club Co-Founder | Burlington High School 2015-2017
  - Co-President, Vice President, participated in programming competitions
- Student Body President | Burlington High School 2016-2017
  - Responsible for directing communications
- Boys & Girls Club volunteer coding class 2016-2017
  - Started and taught introductory coding class after school to elementary school-aged students at Medford, MA Boys & Girls Club

AWARDS

- National AP Scholar July 2017
- MetroHacks II Hackathon – “Best Hardware” Prize May 2017
- Hispanic Heritage Youth Award – Bronze Medal, Innovation & Technology December 2016

1) How were you first introduced to Computer Science? How have you continued to develop your technical skills and sought additional exposure to the field?

When I was seven years old, my father showed me how to make a simple website with the dynamic trio of Notepad, HTML, and GeoCities. After he showed me basic upgrades, I took it upon myself to learn more. I used online tutorials and site source code to cobble together new features of my own. Since then, my learning has been significantly steered by solo projects. I learned iOS development by developing an iPhone game, Air Pod, and followed it with traditional app development through a freelance job.

For web development, I learned PHP and Javascript through smaller projects; to learn Ruby on Rails, I followed a tutorial book which provided me with boilerplate for TimeDojo.com, a productivity tracking site I have developed.

Classes augmented this learning, as I learned specific knowledge of Java and algorithms, and developed problem-solving and analytical skills.

Though my projects, I have developed self-efficacy in my ability to quickly scaffold applications and grasp new languages, while through my classwork, I have grown more attuned into slow, logical thinking to develop sound and efficient applications. The union of these two have richly enhanced my technical skills and have prepared me for further learning.

2) What is your strongest programming language? How much experience do you have using the language? Go into detail about how you used this technical language. If talking about a group project, be specific about your role in the final product. (Examples can include projects, coursework, competitions, websites, previous internships, etc.)

Java is my strongest programming language. I began to learn it in AP Computer Science A. There, I learned and programmed common sorting and searching algorithms, solved programming problems, and extended the functionality of a larger program, GridWorld. I am further studying Java in my current programming class, learning about features such as generics, and implementing data structures such as linked lists and heaps. I have also used Java at several Fitchburg State Programming Contests in high school, where I worked in groups of 3-4 to solve programming challenges in a 3-hour span.

While Java is my single strongest language, I have not used it much for projects. I have been developed different apps on different platforms, and in turn, used different languages. For web development, I've used both Ruby and PHP, for iOS development, I learned its native Objective-C, and for Windows development, I learned basic C#.

Having experience with various languages through my projects, I am comfortable using whatever language best befits the task at hand, even if it is new to me. However, for algorithmic programs and other single-purposed applications, Java is my language of choice due to my formal training.

3) At Google, we believe that a diversity of perspectives, ideas, and cultures leads to the creation of better products and services. Tell us about your background and experiences and how they make you unique.

My mother is Colombian and my father is Moroccan; an unusual combination that flings me face-first into the great American cultural melting pot. Whether I'm in Colombia or Morocco, I can pass

as a native – until I open my mouth. While I can speak some Spanish and understand some Arabic, I never became fluent in either language; thus I cannot partake as a full member of either culture. My own cultural identity lies somewhere on a spectrum in between them. I might eat a Colombian breakfast and a Moroccan lunch; I love returning to both countries, and I relate with compatriots from both. Religion unifies my household and augments this identity. Being an American Muslim poses the interesting challenge of balancing religious values and rituals with societal norms and prejudices. I practice it daily, and it has shaped my worldview, allowing me to identify with others performing the same balancing act. While the pieces of my identity may seem distinct, I take pride in representing and celebrating all of them. Together, they encourage me to be an exemplar of all the cultures that make me, me.

4) List the technical courses you'll be taking next semester. If you haven't registered for classes yet, please list the courses you plan on taking.

- CS 3110 Functional Programming
- ENGRD 2300 Digital Logic & Computer Organization
- MATH 1920 Multivariable Calculus.

5) List any clubs and/or organizations that you participate in.

- MECA: Muslim Educational and Cultural Association:
    - I have given the Friday sermon and attended club events; I plan to be more active in the club, specifically, by organizing more community outreach events and solidifying prayer times.
- URMC: Underrepresented Minorities in Computer Science
    - I have been to club events, and plan to become more involved in the club in the future and help develop its digital presence.