

Tri Chu

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Experience

Niantic Spatial (Formerly Niantic Labs)

Senior Software Engineer | TypeScript, C++, React, WebXR, Game Engines, Flecs, Wasm

Palo Alto, CA

March 2023 - Present

- Built Niantic Studio, a web-based AR authoring tool featuring a dedicated game engine, XR engine, and simulation support within a drag-and-drop UI. Recognized as a best-in-class tool by winning "Best Developer Tool" at AWE USA 2024. Cut time-to-publish by 34% and increased Monthly Active Developers (MAD) by 29.6%
- Developed an innovative Simulator within the 8th Wall Cloud Editor, enabling developers to preview code changes in seconds (instead of minutes) without requiring a mobile device. Nearly double user retention and engagement metric since launch from (3.6%) to (7%)
- Supported the launch of the Niantic Geospatial Browser (GSB), empowering users to author and manage location-based content remotely using Niantic's mapping data

Niantic Labs

Software Engineer | TypeScript, C++, React, WebXR, Wasm, Three.js

Palo Alto, CA

April 2022 - February 2023

- Expanded our Metaversal Deployment feature to enable running our product on new platforms like the Apple Vision Pro, Meta Quest 2. won "Best Developer Tool" at AWE USA 2025
- Designed, developed, and launched a new documentation system, providing a centralized knowledge source for agentic training and driving significant website engagement. Achieved 50K monthly page views and improved resource accessibility for internal and external users
- Expanded website localization to add 4 more languages and regions, enhancing global accessibility and driving deeper market penetration across international audiences
- Raised MAD 42% in 2 months by launching an upgraded Cloud Editor with Monaco IDE to accelerate creation of web experiences

8th Wall (Acquired by Niantic)

Software Engineer | TypeScript, C++, React, WebXR

Palo Alto, CA

November 2020 - March 2022

- Designed and implemented an integrated blog platform within the company website, driving ~7% of total logged-out traffic (~100K monthly impressions) through improved SEO, performance optimization, and user experience enhancements
- Expanded our WebXR capability, culminate in project Metaversal Deployment which enable development of our WebXR product to headmount devices and other platforms. This set the foundation for 8th Wall to win the Best Developer Tool at AWE 2024
- Built a public profile system for our customer workspaces. Allow our customers to have more venues to advertise their works, driving more engagement to our website
- Improved our Cloud Editor by adding new features like code search and debug mode. Surfacing more signals to developers working on our platform
- Contributed to the strategic growth and successful acquisition of 8th Wall by Niantic by utilizing cutting-edge technologies and optimizing cross-functional workflows, driving business value and operational efficiency

Harvest Exchange

Software Engineer | Python, React, Bottle, Ruby on Rails

Houston, TX

June 2016 - October 2020

- Refactored our web application from Ruby on Rail to React with Python stack, which increased our SEO score and conversion rate by 20%
- Developed a new email processing system that speed up our daily newsletter processing by 10x times while keeping up with our growing subscription base

Baylor College of Medicine – Human Genome Sequencing Center

Houston, TX

Software Engineer | Java, AngularJS, GWT, RESTful Web Services

March 2012 – May 2016

- Wrote and maintained a suite of responsive reporting software for biometric data that monitor have millions of samples
- Rewrote an old GWT web application using AngularJS and Java Restful Web Service which Improved query speed for HGSC reports by more than 10 times

University of Houston

Houston, TX

Research Assistant | C++, OpenCV, Qt

March 2012 – May 2016

- Built an application to demonstrate the effectiveness of computer graphics algorithms using the OpenCV library on C++/Qt platform

Projects

Homelab

Neverending

- Self-hosted Docker cluster with a web server, media server, DNS sinkhole, password manager, file-hosting, monitoring system, Minecraft server, virtualization hypervisor, and more!
- Wrote a modular machine-agnostic script that sets up my homelab infrastructure with a single command

Skills

- Programming Languages: Typescript, Javascript, Python, C/C++
- Tools: React.js, Three.js, Node.js, WebXR, Flecs, SQL, Ruby on Rails, JQuery, Django, Bottle
- Human Languages: English (fluent), Vietnamese (native)

Education

University of Houston

Houston, TX

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

August 2008 – May 2011

ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) Team,

Dean's List