VARUN KANNA

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Education

University of California, Santa Cruz — June 2025
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science — *Santa Cruz, CA*
Relevant Coursework: Data Structures & Algorithms, Discrete Mathematics, Linear Algebra, Calculus I, II, III

Experience

Transcend Academics — January 2021 – April 2022
Tutor — *Pleasanton, CA*
- Tutored underprivileged middle school students with STEM classes, enabling them to overcome educational challenges
- Awarded "Tutor Of The Month" for elevating student's skills by improving their mindset towards classes
- Developed teaching ability by providing actionable feedback, resulting in a remarkable 15% improvement in grades

Projects

Maomorize - Memorization App | *JavaScript, Firebase, Firestore, React, Vite* — January 2024
- Designed a dynamic website that leverages the effective "blurting" study method to improve learning retention
- Achieved streamlined data storage and retrieval of user notes through the implementation of server-side JavaScript, optimizing performance by 30% in data handling processes
- Enhanced the design by making it easier for users to navigate the website using React Router with Vite

SmokeScreen - Blocker for Content | *JavaScript, Chrome Storage API* — November 2023
ACM Hacks x Grace Hacks - Most Ambitious Award
- Expedited the development of a Google Chrome extension that automatically hides user specified content
- Improved the backend functionality using the Chrome Storage API and JavaScript to allow users to save their phrases
- Strengthened the functionality of the extension by 50% through meticulously debugging issues to make sure the specified content is blocked

SpotYt - Spotify to Youtube Playlist Converter | *Python, YouTube Music API, Exportify* — June - August 2023
- Developed a custom Python automation tool to streamline playlist conversion by utilizing the YouTube Music API and Exportify
- Automated playlist conversion to reduce the time needed to add songs on average by 40% and benchmarked this for various album sizes ranging from 100-1000 songs
- Enforced CRUD functionalities to improve the user experience by implementing robust data specification checks

NBA Comparison Tool | *Python, Pandas, Numpy, NBA API* — April - May 2023
- Engineered a Python script to compare players by metrics such as true shooting percentage and effective field goal percentage using Pandas & Numpy to handle player objects
- Retrieved statistics that contributed to more up-to-date comparisons between players by utilizing the NBA API
- Created a menu tool employing regex resulting in a 30% reduction in time required for comparisons

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, JavaScript, HTML/CSS
Developer Tools: Git, GitHub, Ubuntu, Notion, Object Oriented Programming, Visual Studio Code
Technologies/Frameworks: React, Flask, Firebase, Firestore, Netlify

Extracurriculars

Google Developer Student Club — Fall 2023 – Present
Member
- Improved technical skill through attending Google product workshops on Firebase, Flutter, and TensorFlow
- Developed a 4 year course scheduler for GDSC Solution Challenge to assist students on creating their schedules

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Chapter — Fall 2023 – Present
Member
- Immersed myself in software such as REST & SOAP APIs to expand skill set

Athletics & Recreation Fund Advisory Committee — Fall 2023 – Present
Committee
- Sparked constructive insights and recommendations to enhance facility functionality by collecting roughly 50 responses per topic on social media