Verica Karanakova

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, *cum laude*   August 2020 - May 2024
Illinois Institute of Technology   Chicago, IL

Relevant Courses: Data Structures and Algorithms, Database Organization, Discrete Structures, Game Design (video and board games), Information Security, Interactive Storytelling, Mobile Application Development, Object-Oriented Programming, Programming Paradigms and Patterns, Web Development

EXPERIENCE

AI Model Trainer   October 2024 – Present
Outlier   Remote

- Improved the performance of Large Language Models generating accurate, high-quality code by crafting misleading prompts and identifying, analyzing, and correcting errors in the code
- Analyzed and corrected Java, HTML, and Python code on various projects
- Consistently improved prompt strategies by analyzing model behavior, identifying performance issues, and reducing biases and errors in outputs
- Evaluated and scored peer tasks to maintain data quality

Backend Computer Science Intern   June 2022 - August 2022
Scarlet Data Studio   Chicago, IL

- Collaborated in an Agile environment to implement backend features for the Butterfly Web Application in Python
- Programmed a match ranker to rank matches based on amount of upvotes a giver received for an intent
- Implemented a generator to match users based on geographical location and prioritize matches with the least amount of distance
- Developed unit tests to ensure complete correctness of rankers and generator

Swim Instructor   January 2019 - June 2019
Bear Paddle Swim School   Lake in the Hills, IL

- Trained new swim instructors on effective teaching techniques and safety procedures
- Built strong relationships with parents and children through proactive communication and individualized feedback
- Directly aided parents in getting 6-month-old to 2-year-old children more comfortable and safer in water

SKILLS

Hard Skills: Unit Testing, Test Case Development, Prompt Engineering
Soft Skills: Problem Solving, Detail Oriented, Teamwork, Time Management, Communication, Project Management
Software Development Methodologies: Agile, Scrum, Kanban
Technical Languages: Java, Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, C, Racket, Haskell, MIPS Assembly, SQL
Tools & Technologies: Git, GitHub, Docker, Azure, Android Studios, Visual Studio Code, PostgreSQL, Eclipse

PROJECTS

Civil Advocacy App | *Java, Android Studio, Git, Google API, XML, JSON, Location Services*

- Developed Android app that leverages location data to provide users with local government officials' information
- Implemented a ViewPager to display interactive list of political officials that represent current location, or input location, at each government level
- Utilized Google Civic Information API (REST service and JSON results) to acquire government official data
- Incorporated on-click listener to open full detailed view of individual government representative when an official's list entry is selected, and displays larger version of image when image is clicked
- Leveraged Android Fused Location Provider services to determine user's current location

Personal Website | *HTML, CSS, JavaScript, GitHub Pages*

- Designed and developed a personal website to introduce my background, technical skills, and project portfolio
- Implemented a navigation bar ensuring seamless transition between four different pages
- Integrated a downloadable resume along with links to my LinkedIn profile and GitHub project repositories
- Created clean, consistent UI layouts with a focus on usability and visual hierarchy
- Built mobile-friendly pages with flexible grids and media-queries ensuring cross-device responsiveness
- Applied accessibility best practices by including alt text and proper heading structure