RASHAD PHILIZAIRE

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EDUCATION

Turing Scholar CS Honors, University of Texas at Austin

B.S Computer Science | 📅 May 2024
- **Honors Coursework:** Computer Architecture, Data Structures, Operating Systems
- **Selected Coursework:** Distributed Systems, Natural Language Processing, Artificial Intelligence, Info Retrieval & Search

EXPERIENCE

Stripe

Software Engineering Intern | 📅 May 2023 - Aug 2023
- Achieved an **~85%** reduction in engineering costs of adding an External Payment Method to Stripe
- Unblocked Stripe adoption by enabling merchants to integrate with **60** previously unsupported payment methods
- Reduced operational costs for Stripe by leveraging **Apache Airflow** and **Spark** to create a data pipeline for financial partners
- Enhanced scalability of the third-party payment method platform by using **Protobuf** and **gRPC** to expose self-serve settlement data
- Enabled Stripe to enforce partner settlement SLA by using **Java** to automate settlement calculations adaptable to any country

Meta (Facebook)

Meta University Intern | 📅 Jun 2022 - Aug 2022
- Tarrare - Developed a full-stack app using to connect students on campus for food deliveries
- Implemented a real-time order and delivery matching system, providing live updates with **GraphQL Subscriptions**
- Optimized location services by integrating **Google Places/Routes** APIs for restaurant/building locations and distance calculations
- Serving a **GraphQL** API written in **Typescript** that queries a **PostgreSQL** database for users, restaurants, conversations, and orders

Yext

Software Engineering Intern | 📅 Jun 2021 - Aug 2021
- Created a system to automatically store webhooks for clients using the Yext Pages' **Git** version control to allow for data recovery
- Developed file sharing service using **React** and the Monaco Editor API for the Yext Pages' code editor
- Optimized loading times of widgets by refactoring **gRPC** clients' initialization

PROJECTS

Farfalle | *FastAPI, Python, Redis, Docker, NextJS*
- Developed an open-source AI powered search engine with **2.1k+ Github stars** and **90k+ queries** processed (demo site)
- Implemented support for both local (LLama3, Mistral) and cloud-based (GPT-4o) language models
- Designed a flexible architecture supporting multiple search providers (Bing, SearXNG, Tavily)
- Handled increasing scale by integrating **Redis** for rate limiting and search result caching, significantly reducing response times
- Managed an active open-source project, addressing user issues and feature requests independently

Academic QA Engine | *FastAPI, Python, Postgres, NextJS*
- Developed a hybrid answer engine for academic papers, integrating SQL, LLMs, and vector search to respond to academic queries
- Served a **FastAPI** backend featuring a multi-stage retrieval system, integrating vector search and cross-encoder reranking
- Engineered a **metadata extraction** pipeline with GPT-4 and arXiv's API to process and categorize research papers concurrently
- Implemented **tool use** system to dynamically choose between SQL queries on the metadata **Postgres** DB and retrieval answers

Vision | *Django Rest Framework, Celery, Redis, Docker, Postgres, React Native*
- Developing a community platform for students seeking professional opportunities using **Django Rest Framework** to create an API
- Utilized **Celery** to update popularity score of posts asynchronously, improving the overall scalability of the platform
- Implemented **Redis** as both a message broker and an in-memory cache to minimize latency for retrieving popular posts
- Containerized the application and all dependencies using **Docker Compose**, streamlining deployment

HONORS

- **Kleiner Perkins Engineering Fellow:** Recognized out of **2500+** applicants for technical skills and entrepreneurial drive
- **Neo Scholar Finalist:** Recognized out of **1000+** applicants for exceptional technical ability and passion for building
- **RippleX Founder Fellow:** Technical founder of an AI documentation assistant for developer-facing products

SKILLS

Languages: Python, Java, C++, Rust, Typescript/Javascript
Other: Spark, Django, Redis, Docker, PostgreSQL, GraphQL, Flask, React