Radison Akerman

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Education

University of Illinois Chicago

Aug 2020 – May 2024 // Chicago, IL

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Minor in Business Administration; 3.97 GPA

Professional Experience

Lead Software Engineer @ **Vista Power**

Nov 2024 – Present // San Francisco, CA

- Founding engineer at YC-backed Vista Power, directed software strategy across product, infrastructure, and data systems
- Built Multimeter, a utility data aggregation and enrichment platform that generates solar + storage proposals in minutes
- Delivered 95%+ accurate bill-processing pipeline using AI + OCR with logical redundancy checks, removed key proposal bottleneck
- Developed a Next.js UI for project management, entity linking, workflow kickoff, and visualization of synthetic energy usage data
- Architected a unified data plane with Hasura DDN, Temporal, Timescale DB, Docker, GCP, and Cloudflare Zero Trust

Project Manager & Software Engineer @ **University of Illinois Chicago College of Engineering**

Aug 2021 – May 2024 // Chicago, IL

- Organized a team of 6+ software engineers and contributed directly to 10+ full-stack web apps used by 3,000+
- Led the push towards web app modernization across the College using Nuxt, Next.js, Spring Boot, Vue, React, SQL, Auth0
- Single-handedly developed and published a Shibboleth (SAML SSO) to Express (Node.js) authentication package on npm
- Drafted and enforced university IT policies and procedures, identified data risks across all 500+ faculty and staff

Software Engineering Intern @ **nvisia**

Dec 2023 – Jan 2024 // Chicago, IL

- Integrated REST API endpoints into a C# .NET consultant profile builder web app using Entity Framework, SQL Server
- Gained small-scale consulting experience spanning multiple industries and full-stack disciplines in an agile/scrum environment

Software Engineering Intern, Starship Software @ **SpaceX**

May 2023 – Aug 2023 // Starbase, TX

- Owned Starship Config Signoff, a critical flight reliability tool used by 100+ Starship engineers to validate 1M+ vehicle config values
- Spearheaded development of 10+ features into Signoff: rebuilt Flask APIs, new SQLAlchemy query structure, refreshed React UI
- Integrated a software version verification Python library concurrently into a Rust operations platform, reducing deploy time by 40%
- Built functioning UI mockups in Lit as part of Starship software deploys rework, participated in design conversations and CDRs

Executive Operations Director @ **Pulqra**

Feb 2020 – Jan 2023 // United States

- Co-built and operationally led Pulqra, a mission-capitalist creative marketing collective based in Rockford, Madison, and Chicago
- Reimagined businesses and artists by rapidly designing 5+ commercial websites and social portfolios from scratch using Nuxt, Tailwind
- Rendered services to 80+ clients worldwide — from full-on creative design to photography to copywriting

Digital Lead @ **Steven Olikara for U.S. Senate**

Apr 2022 – Aug 2022 // Milwaukee, WI

- Completely rebuilt campaign website from the ground up using Nuxt, Tailwind; visited by 1,000s of Wisconsinites daily
- Secured sensitive campaign data and digital infrastructure against cyber attacks using Cloudflare, NGP VAN
- Worked with a team of web developers and content creators to rapidly push media; took photographs in the field

Software Engineering Intern @ **University of Illinois Chicago College of Engineering**

May 2021 – Aug 2021 // Chicago, IL

- Maintained and redesigned a custom space-and-physical-access management system using Laravel, Vue, SQL
- Created new documentation and issue reporting standards in Atlassian Jira, Bitbucket; increasing readability and triage speed by 3-fold
- Presented projects to university admin and trained faculty/staff on application usage regularly via MS Teams

Software Engineering Intern @ **Montel Technologies**

Nov 2017 – Sep 2018 // Loves Park, IL

- Frontend lead on an enterprise-grade, on-prem security unification solution (MTOP) built using Node.js, Handlebars, MongoDB
- Configured mission-critical SLA networks and IT infrastructure in the field; physically installed switches, IP cameras, access control
- Coordinated IoT devices R&D (Particle, Raspberry Pi, Cradlepoint) for use in 100's of deployed edge policing units across Rockford, IL

Teaching and Mentoring

Section Leader @ Stanford University
Apr 2021 — Jun 2025 // Remote
- Section led Code in Place: a free, human-centric, intro-to-coding course taught in the time of COVID-19
- Helped instruct 10,000+ students on the fundamentals of Python and computer science principles
- Worked one-on-one with all age groups, built office-hours-esque curriculum tailored to the 6 week course

Mentor @ UIC Cities Project
Aug 2023 — May 2024 // Chicago, IL
- Co-led program activities and directly mentored 10+ 6th-8th graders at Chalmers School of Excellence in Chicago
- Taught evidence-based techniques for coping with stress, including mindfulness exercises and relaxation techniques
- Actively forged relationships with mentees by acting as an advocate, role model, opportunity provider, and adult friend

Event Captain @ Life Time
Aug 2021 — May 2022 // Chicago, IL
- Volunteered as a permanent event captain for all Life Time athletic events hosted in Chicago
- Helped organize and lead 750+ volunteers who aided 8,000+ athletes per event; together we setup aid stations, start/finish lines

Instructor @ Montel Technologies
Nov 2017 — Sep 2018 // Loves Park, IL
- Co-led a weekly instructional program in Rockford that taught 15+ teenagers the fundamentals of coding and IT
- Explored the bleeding edge of computer science and cyber security — from web development to IoT to machine learning

Honors and Awards

Finalist, Technical Track @ Caffeine Hackathon
Jul 2025 // San Francisco, CA
Singlehandedly placed top 9 overall and top 5 on the technical track at the Caffeine hackathon, 80+ participants at large

Runner-up, Empowerment Track @ Sparkhacks Hackathon
Feb 2024 // Chicago, IL
A part of a team of 3 who placed 2nd on the empowerment track at the Sparkhacks hackathon, 180+ participants at large

UIC P. V. Sudhindra Scholarship @ University of Illinois Chicago
Aug 2023 // Chicago, IL
Awarded to students who have demonstrated multi-disciplinary academic excellence at the University of Illinois Chicago

Winner, Best Technology Award @ Wildhacks Hackathon
Apr 2023 // Evanston, IL
Awarded to the team with the most advanced/creative use of technology at the Wildhacks hackathon, 250+ participants at large

UIC Victor & Lucy Kan Scholarship @ University of Illinois Chicago
Aug 2021, Aug 2022 // Chicago, IL
Awarded to students who have demonstrated multi-disciplinary academic excellence at the University of Illinois Chicago

Weingartner Scholarship @ Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church
Aug 2020, Aug 2021, Aug 2022 // Rockford, IL
Awarded to exceptional members of the Church who volunteer and support the Rockford community regularly

UIC Logmaster CS Scholarship @ University of Illinois Chicago
Aug 2021 // Chicago, IL
Awarded to students who have demonstrated computer science academic excellence at the University of Illinois Chicago

AP Capstone Diploma @ College Board
May 2020 // Rockford, IL
Awarded to students who earn scores of 3 or higher on AP Seminar, AP Research, and 4 additional AP Exams of their choosing

AP Scholar @ College Board
May 2020 // Rockford, IL
Awarded to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP Exams

Skills

Languages TypeScript, JavaScript, Python, C, C++, Rust, Java, SQL, Bash, HTML, CSS

Software Git, AWS, GCP, Docker, Github Actions, Terraform, Node.js, Express, Flask, Postgres, MongoDB, Vue, React, Next.js

Specialties Leadership, UI/UX, APIs, Data Pipelines, Platform Infrastructure, Networking, Automation, Concurrency, IoT, CI/CD, IaC

Presentations

Technical Project Management Guest Lecture, UIC IDS 312 @ University of Illinois Chicago

`Apr 2024 // Chicago, IL`

- Explored Agile software engineering using ZenHub for sprint planning, issue tracking, and rapid full-stack deployments
- Showcased personal projects like a wardrobe logging app, emphasizing user workflows, design principles, working as a team
- Delivered as a 30m guest lecture to 50+ students at University of Illinois Chicago in IDS 312: Business Project Management

Exploding Chickens Guest Lecture, UIC CS 342 @ University of Illinois Chicago

`Apr 2022, Dec 2022, Apr 2023 // Chicago, IL`

- Explored the structure of Exploding Chickens, a full-stack web app built using Node.js, MongoDB with 1,750+ games played
- Discussed game play, project milestones, full-stack architecture, data schema, websockets, test coverage, and hosted a live demo
- Delivered as a 30-75m guest lecture 3 times to 20-80+ students at University of Illinois Chicago in CS 342: Software Design

*See presentation details at **radison.io/publications***

Projects

Author

`Dec 2022 — Present // author.rakerman.com`

- A centralized user management backbone leveraging edge cloud compute, built using Cloudflare Workers, Nuxt, Auth0
- Saved and managed 100's of user profiles; API distributed for use across 10+ external services to keep profiles up-to-date

Mark 4

`Jul 2022 — Present // radison.io`

- Radison Akerman's 4th personal portfolio website, built as a lightweight frontend using Nuxt, Cloudflare Workers, Tailwind
- Hosts a Resume/CV export tool that converts JSON-ified experience data to styled HTML/CSS to PDF using Puppeteer, Github Actions

Informr

`Jun 2022 — Present // informr.rakerman.com`

- A web form submission backbone leveraging edge cloud compute, built using Cloudflare Workers, Nuxt
- Saved and analyzed 1,000's of form submissions at the cloud edge, filters spam and sends email notifications via Mailgun

Exploding Chickens

`Dec 2020 — Present // chickens.rakerman.com`

- A full-stack online card game built using Node.js with 1,750+ games played by 600+ players; led development and a team of 5
- Delivered 4 guest lectures at University of Illinois Chicago and SpaceX detailing project structure, schema, testing, viewed by 200+

*See project details at **radison.io#projects***