# 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; 3.96 GPA

**Auburn High School**

Aug 2016 – May 2020 // Rockford, IL

High School Diploma, Gifted Program Seal; 3.8 GPA

## Professional Experience

**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
- Collaborated with 3 front-end/dev-ops interns, 5 back-end mentors, and 2+ business stakeholders in an agile/scrum environment
- Gained unique, small-scale consulting experience spanning multiple industries and full-stack disciplines

**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, CSS 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, Tailwinds
- 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, Tailwinds; visited by 1,000's of Wisconsinites daily
- Secured sensitive campaign data and digital infrastructure against cyber attacks using Cloudflare, NGP VAN, Informr
- 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 with Atlassian Jira, Bitbucket; increasing readability 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

- Lead front-end web developer on an enterprise-grade, on-prem security unification solution (MTOP) built using Node.js, MongoDB
- Configured mission-critical SLA networks and 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

**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

**Section Leader** @ Stanford University

`Apr 2021 — Jun 2023 // Remote`

- Section led Code in Place 2021, 2023 — 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 4 week course

**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 around 750 volunteers who aided nearly 8,000 athletes per event
- Assisted in event operations at scale — deployed and tore down 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

# Event Operations Experience

**Event Operations Assistant** @ Chicago Special Events Management

`Aug 2022 — Present // Chicago, IL`

- Played a key role in some of Chicago's biggest special sporting events (Chicago Triathlon, Chicago Spring + Fall Half Marathon)
- Directly coordinated and delegated responsibilities to 10-100+ staff and volunteers who aided nearly 8,000 athletes per event
- Assisted in event operations at scale across varying disciplines, from course leadership to warehouse prep to expo management

# Skills

**Languages**  Python, C, C++, Java, Rust, JavaScript, TypeScript, C#, F#, Go, SQL, Bash, HTML, CSS

**Software**  Git, Cloudflare, AWS, Docker, Node.js, Nuxt, Express, Flask, SQLAlchemy, MongoDB, Vue, React, Tailwinds, .NET, VMware

**Interests**  Networking, Cloud computing, Concurrency, IoT, CI/CD, Automation, Full-stack development, DevOps, Cybersecurity, Blockchain

# Honors and Awards

**Runner-up, Empowerment Track** @ Sparkhacks Hackathon

`Feb 2024 // Chicago, IL`

Apart 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

## Honors and Awards (cont.)

**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

**IESA State Chess Champions @ Illinois Elementary School Association**
May 2016 // Peoria, IL
A member of the 2016 state-winning chess team as board 6 of 8, 45+ teams at large

## Presentations

**Exploding Chickens Guest Lecture, Frontend Discussion Group @ SpaceX**
Jul 2023 // Starbase, TX
- Explored the structure of Exploding Chickens, a full-stack web app built using Node.js, MongoDB with 1,250+ games played
- Discussed game play, project milestones, full-stack architecture, data schema, websockets, test coverage, and hosted a live demo
- Emphasis placed on web browser basics, websockets, managing data streams on the frontend, and its relevance to SpaceX tooling
- Delivered internally to 20+ participants of the company-wide 'Frontend Discussion Group' at SpaceX

**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 1,250+ games played
- Discussed game play, project milestones, full-stack architecture, data schema, websockets, test coverage, and hosted a live demo
- Delivered as a full-length guest lecture 3 times to 20-80+ students at University of Illinois Chicago in CS 342: Software Design

*See all 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, Tailwinds
- 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 1,250+ games played by 600+ players; led development and a team of 5
- Delivered 3 300-level guest lectures at University of Illinois Chicago detailing project structure, schema, testing, viewed by 200+

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