Varun Gangadharan

Email | Website | Github | LinkedIn

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Go, Python, JavaScript/TypeScript, C++, Java, C, SQL, Bash
Technologies & Frameworks: HashiCorp Vault, Kubernetes, Docker, React, Node.js, Django, AWS, Azure DevOps, Git

EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer I   Jul. 2024 – Present
GEICO | Go, TypeScript, HashiCorp Vault, React, Kubernetes, Docker   *Chevy Chase, MD*

- **Spearheaded end-to-end design and development** of a Slack bot for secure one-time secret sharing, adopted across GEICO engineering (4,000+ users) with 100+ daily interactions.
- Architected and shipped core GSP (GEICO Secrets Platform) capabilities enabling secure secrets management for 150+ engineering teams across the organization.
- Built production-grade Vault integrations (JWT/OIDC auth, token caching/refresh, response wrapping) and deployed via Kubernetes with automated TLS certificate management.
- Developed full-stack features using Go services and a React UI, integrating Azure DevOps CI/CD to standardize releases across environments and reduce deployment friction.

Fullstack Software Engineer Intern   May 2023 – Aug. 2023
Flow AI | Python, ReactJS, SQL, Django, AWS   *Austin, TX*

- Increased system throughput by 29% by engineering a Python/Django load-balancing solution supporting 1,200+ daily API requests with zero interruptions.
- Optimized SQL queries to reduce data retrieval time by 14%, improving workflows for 7 sales agents.
- Supported service migration to AWS, improving reliability to 99.5% uptime and projecting an 11% reduction in server costs.

Software Engineer Intern   Jun. 2022 – Aug. 2022
Leidos | Python, Kornshell, Bash, Docker   *Gaithersburg, MD*

- Modernized a legacy API backend, improving response time by 26% and reducing technical debt through refactoring and automation.
- Built Python-based parallel tracking to monitor 1,900 aircraft simultaneously, improving real-time decision support for en route controllers.
- Coordinated a zero-downtime migration across four teams with structured rollout communication for 300+ users.

EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign   Aug. 2023 – May 2024
MSc. Computer Science

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign   Aug. 2020 – May 2023
BSc. Computer Science; GPA: 3.7/4.0

PROJECTS

FoodSage | *React, AWS Lambda, Python*   June 2023 – Aug. 2023

- Developed an AI-driven nutrition recommender that generates personalized dietary plans using React and AWS Lambda.
- Improved recommendation customization by 32% through user profiling and model-driven ranking.

GeoSentiment | *Python, Tweepy, NLTK, SpaCy*   Nov. 2022 – Jan. 2023

- Built a sentiment analysis pipeline to track global Twitter trends using Python and NLP tooling.
- Increased classification accuracy by 28% via improved preprocessing and feature engineering.

Other Projects

- Engineered a **housing web app** for campus residential searches using React, Node.js, and MongoDB.
- Built a **YouTube Bot** with Python and Selenium to auto-open videos when selected creators upload.
- Implemented a **Unix shell** in C that parses and executes commands from standard input.
- Trained a **Naive Bayes model** in C++ to classify user-drawn digits.