Christopher Lai

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EDUCATION

CUNY Hunter College — New York City, NY
Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science (GPA: 3.86, Dean's List) — *Aug 2020 - May 2024*

SKILLS

Languages: JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML/CSS, Python, C/C++, SQL, Dart
Frameworks: React, Next.js, React Native, Flutter, Tailwind CSS, Express.js, FastAPI
Technologies: Git, Linux, PostgreSQL, Supabase, Firebase, MySQL, MongoDB, MariaDB, Postman, Figma
Licenses & Certifications: CodePath Certificate in Intermediate Software Engineering, Airframe License

EXPERIENCE

CUNY Hunter College - ICIT Department — New York City, NY
Web Designer — *Apr 2024 - Present*

- Design, publish, and maintain WordPress pages for Hunter College, ensuring WCAG compliance and applying UI/UX best practices to improve accessibility and usability for 10,000+ monthly users.
- Built a Python script (requests, BeautifulSoup, urllib.parse) to scan legacy CMS webpages, extract unique URLs, and automate a manual, error-prone workflow, streamlining the preliminary web content migration process.

ACJ International Realty LLC | acjinternationalrealty.com | *GitHub* — New York City, NY
Freelance Web Developer — *Nov 2023 - Dec 2023*

- Designed and launched a responsive website for a real estate firm using Next.js, Tailwind CSS, and MongoDB.
- Built a secure, reliable contact form by integrating Nodemailer and Zoho Mail with form validation, input sanitation, hCaptcha, and server-side handling, storing submissions in MongoDB for scalability and monitoring.
- Optimized website performance and SEO by implementing lazy loading for images and components, enhancing metadata, and leveraging Next.js performance features, improving page load times and search engine visibility.

NYC Department of Social Services — New York City, NY
Data Analyst Intern — *Jul 2022 - Aug 2022*

- Developed a Python pipeline (PyPDF2, Pandas, SQLite) that extracts invoice data from PDFs, converts it into structured CSVs, standardizes filenames, and removes duplicates via SQL queries, ensuring a clean, duplicate-free invoice directory.

PROJECTS

LockySpots (Bike Parking) | bike-parking.vercel.app | *GitHub*

- Led and collaborated with 3 developers to create a full-stack crowdsourced bike parking platform that locates every bike rack and street sign in NYC using Next.js, React Leaflet, NYC Open Data APIs, and ArcGIS.
- Utilized Supabase for database management, Google SSO authentication, and role-based access control (RBAC), enabling user and admin privileges.

NBA Matchup & Stats Explorer | nba-matchup.vercel.app

- Developed a full-stack NBA/WNBA analytics platform with a FastAPI backend and Next.js (TypeScript) frontend, implementing SSE-based real-time streaming for game log progress updates and an asyncio/aiohttp concurrent fetch pipeline with semaphore-controlled batching for ESPN API requests.
- Built a multi-layer caching system (server-side LRU + client-side TanStack Query) to eliminate redundant network requests and enable instant navigation between previously viewed matchups and player logs.

RestVT | nyc-restaurant-violations.vercel.app | *GitHub* | HackCUNY 2024 Data Science Winner

- Developed a dynamic web app using Next.js and public datasets from NYC Open Data that highlights NYC restaurants with health and safety violations on an interactive map interface.
- Leveraged OpenLayers API to create an interactive geographical map that marks the locations of restaurants along with their associated violations.

Multisweepers | https://multisweepers.netlify.app | *GitHub*

- Developed a multiplayer web app based on the game Minesweeper using JavaScript and HTML/CSS.
- Utilized the WebSocket API to facilitate bidirectional communication between clients and the server, enabling real-time transmission of game state updates and player interactions.
- Implemented a fully functional multiplayer game system that monitors and tracks client/server-side events including server status, chat messages, player events, and player scores.

YouTube Weekly 100 | yt-weekly-100.web.app | *GitHub*

- Built a Flutter web app displaying real-time trending YouTube videos using the YouTube Data API, with Firebase Authentication and Firestore for secure user credential and favorites storage.