Aya Squalli Houssaini

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Experience

HEADSTARTER FELLOWSHIP
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING FELLOW
JULY 2024 - SEPTEMBER 2024
- Built and deployed 5 AI web apps in 5 weeks using React, Next.js, Firebase, Clerk, and Vercel with agile sprints and CI/CD workflows.
- Collaborated with 3 teammates to build a technical support chatbot using Gemini API and Next.js.
- Developed a SaaS flashcard generator (with 200+ flashcards/session) using Gemini API; integrated Stripe API for paywall and custom pricing tiers.
- Created a mock database of 100+ professor reviews, indexed with Pinecone, and connected to a RAG pipeline using OpenAI GPT-3.5-turbo for real-time academic Q&A.
- Scaled all apps to 50–100+ users, iterating weekly based on live feedback for performance and UX improvements.
- Attended weekly mentorships with engineers from Google, YC, Stanford, Amazon, and VC-backed startups.
- Competed in the Rilla Sales Transcripts Hackathon.

1337 CODING BOOTCAMP
PARTICIPANT
COMPLETED: APRIL 2024
- Participated in an intensive 5-weekend bootcamp focused on using Python for data science.
- Enhanced practical programming abilities and developed a deeper understanding of data science techniques and tools.

MNPC PROGRAMMING CONTEST
VOLUNTEER ORGANIZER
MARCH 2024
- Assisted in organizing and coordinating the MNPC programming contest, ensuring smooth execution of the event.
- Managed logistics, including participant registration, scheduling, and resource allocation.
- Contributed to the promotion and outreach efforts, increasing participant engagement and event visibility

CAPTURE THE FLAG (CTF) COMPETITIONS
- **Local CTF with 1337** – Competed in a cybersecurity challenge organized by 1337, solving various cryptography, reverse engineering, and web security challenges.
- **HackTheBox Meetups** – Participated in a Hack The Box community meetups, engaging in penetration testing challenges and collaborating with security enthusiasts.
- **MCSC CTF at ENSIAS** – Competed in the Moroccan Cyber Security Challenge at ENSIAS, tackling real-world security scenarios and gaining hands-on experience in ethical hacking.
- **HackTheBox Meetup with 1337 campuses, 42 Berlin, 42 Wolfsburg and 42 Heilbronn** : Secured 5th place in the CTF competition, solving 6/7 of the problems collaborating in a team of 3.

Skills

- **Programming:** Python, C, C++ , JavaScript, SQL
- **Web Development:** React, Next.js, Nuxt.js, Vue.js (Beginner), HTML5/CSS
- **Cybersecurity & CTF:** Cryptography, Reverse Engineering, Web Exploitation, Forensics,

Education

College Of Computing-UM6P
STATE ENGINEER IN COMPUTER SCIENCE / CYBERSECURITY MINOR (BAC +5, MASTERS' EQUIVALENT)
EXPECTED GRADUATION: 2028
- **ACM Chapter Member:** Actively participated in the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) chapter as a membership chair, contributing to events and workshops

Certifications

CS50X: INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE
Harvard University, edX
COMPLETED: JULY 2024