Earl Tankard, Jr., Ph.D.

Software Engineer | AI-Powered Development

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SUMMARY

Software Engineer at Microsoft focused on taking software from prototype to production. Experience building backend APIs, developer tools, and test automation, with an emphasis on maintainability and reliable delivery.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, C++, TypeScript, JavaScript, Java

APIs & Frameworks: GraphQL, React, Node.js, FastAPI

Tools & Delivery: Kubernetes, Docker, Git, GitHub Actions, Pytest, Playwright

EXPERIENCE

Microsoft · Software Engineer 2 Jul 2025–Present

- Drive software from prototype to production through rotational assignments in Microsoft's AI Development Acceleration Program (MAIDAP).
- Partner with cross-functional teams to improve products and create new applications and workflows.

US AI · Software Engineer, Contract Feb 2025–Apr 2025

- Resolved 60+ bugs in the Archangel application, addressing stability and performance issues; refactored legacy components to improve maintainability.

Microsoft · Software Engineer Intern Jun–Sep 2024; May–Aug 2023

- **2024:** Developed an internal C++ API to connect a monitoring tool to pods in a Kubernetes cluster; refactored a Python automated test suite to support multiple software releases.
- **2023:** Built a Python-based AI tool to assist debugging and improved its test suite.

iCIMS · Software Engineer Intern Jun–Aug 2022; Jun–Aug 2021

- **2022:** Built a GraphQL backend API for custom queries over internally managed React components; developed React components and added components to the internal SDK.
- **2021:** Built a backend tool to track versions of 80+ internal React components, using Bitbucket APIs for data collection and Recharts for team-level visualization.

PROJECTS

dev-setup · Development Environment Automation github.com/primetimetank21/dev-setup

Bash, PowerShell, GitHub Actions

Cross-platform toolchain setup with explicit platform installers, shared version data, and existing-install checks; fixture tests cover selection and dispatch.

Phission · Email Safety Demo github.com/primetimetank21/phission

Python, Reflex, Pytest, Playwright

Synthetic-only email-inspection demo with bounded MIME/link parsing, explicit unknown/error states, session isolation, and automated Python/browser checks. Uses simulated reputation results, not a production phishing detector.

EDUCATION

Howard University · Ph.D., Computer Science (AI/ML) May 2024

Howard University · B.S., Computer Science May 2021