Nihal D'Souza

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Education

The University of British Columbia, Vancouver — **Vancouver, Canada**
Master of Data Science, Computational Linguistics (Expected completion June 2022) — Sep 2021–Present
- UBC Graduate Scholarship (Top student of the class)

The National Institute of Engineering, Mysore — **Mysore, India**
Bachelor of Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering — Aug 2014–Aug 2018
- GPA: 9.0/10

Experience

Cisco Systems — **Bangalore, India**
Software Engineer — Oct 2018–Jun 2021
- Developed and maintained a robust CI/CD software stack regularly utilised by over 1200 test engineers at Cisco's manufacturing sites around the world.
- Actively collaborated with solution architects, developers, QA and Operations teams to drive and solidify design requirements, stable software deployments, and ensure smooth transition of knowledge.
- Presented with the 'Cisco Star Award 2021', highest employee accolade for exceptional work delivered during FY2020.

Univ.AI — **Bangalore, India**
Teaching Assistant (Part-time) — Sep 2019–Apr 2021
- Worked post business hours to guide students in understanding machine learning concepts under the guidance of Harvard professors.
- Authored and peer reviewed weekly newsletters on topics related to data science and natural language processing.

Micro Focus (part of Hewlett Packard Enterprise) — **Bangalore, India**
Software Engineer — Aug 2018–Oct 2018
- Developed new features and test-scripts for an enterprise backup and recovery software that handled over 100 petabytes of critical customer data.

Software Engineer Intern — Jan 2018–Jul 2018
- Developed test automation scripts that ran on nightly and bi-weekly builds for production code and auto-generated performance reports for it.

Projects

WikiContext — Dec 2020
- Given a topic from Wikipedia, the tool generates a list of prerequisite topics and summaries that would help better understand the Wikipedia page itself. Especially useful while trying to read convoluted or complex topics by providing a brief overview of the subject.
- The current version was developed using *Keyword Ranking* for identifying prerequisite topics and *TextRank* for summarization.
- Currently working on upgrading the algorithms to utilize *Word2Vec* embeddings for prerequisite topic modelling and a custom transformer-based model for the summarization engine.
- UI developed and hosted on Streamlit for seamless integration and rapid deployment.

Skills

Expert: Python, Flask, GIT, Jupyter Notebook, Linux, Jenkins, PyTest
Proficient: R, PyTorch, Transformers, Weights & Biases, Streamlit, FastAPI, Microservices, Sphinx
Novice: Excel, Tableau, Kubernetes, ElasticSearch, Logstash, Kibana