

# Ryan Govostes

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Full-time student of Computer Science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

## Objective

To develop new software technologies for a cutting-edge company.

## Experience

### **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER, COGWORKS LABORATORY, RPI** Troy, NY 2007—2008

I improved the usefulness of an algorithm for measuring the semantic relatedness of documents. For this job I used Python to develop a distributed genetic algorithm for optimizing the algorithm; to increase speed, I later ported the code to C++. I also set up and maintained an Apple Xgrid distributed computing cluster. The research culminated with the publishing of a paper which was accepted in the proceedings of the CogSci '08 conference in Washington, D.C.

### **VICE PRESIDENT, RPISEC** Troy, NY 2007—Present

I co-founded the RPISEC club at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for research in computer security. The team placed second among U.S. collegiate teams in the International Capture the Flag security competition hosted by the University of California, Santa Barbara. We also placed second at the 6th Information Security Talent Search at Rochester Institute of Technology. This is a volunteer position.

### **ASSOCIATE COPY EDITOR, THE POLYTECHNIC, RPI** Troy, NY 2007—Present

I am a twice-elected member of the editorial board for Rensselaer's weekly campus newspaper, *The Polytechnic*. The position requires strong English language skills, attentiveness to details, and time management skills. Through this position, I have become familiar with *Associated Press* style guidelines as well as libel and copyright laws. This is a volunteer position.

### **DEVELOPER, ALACATIA LABS** Kyle, TX 2007—Present

I co-founded Alacatia Labs, Inc., which provides developer tools on the Mac OS X, Windows, and Linux platforms. I have contributed to products which run on Mac OS X, iPhone OS, and Windows. I am also a contributor to the company blog, where I post tips and commentary regarding Mac OS X technologies.

### **DEVELOPER, CORNELL UNIVERSITY VIA SUNNYWOOD DESIGN COLLECTIVE** Ithaca, NY 2007

I implemented an interface for browsing a database of botanical specimens visually through the Google Maps API. The task required experience with MySQL, PHP, JavaScript, XML, and asynchronous data transmission to minimize latency, as well as a thorough understanding of geographic coordinate systems and geometric transformations. This was an internship position.

### **DEVELOPER, ELUCID8 DESIGN** Ithaca, NY 2006—2007

I developed from scratch a framework for rapidly deploying dynamic websites. The task involved thorough knowledge of PHP, database systems, and object-oriented design techniques. I developed skills in communicating technical limitations to designers, and implemented standards for code documentation and version control usage. The framework serves as the backbone of several clients' sites, including that of the Cornell School of Civil and Electrical Engineering.

### **MODERATOR, REALGURUS FORUMS** 2001—2005

I participated in an online help program for the REALbasic programming language. I became the most active member, posting thousands of answers to visitors' questions. In 2004, I was promoted to discussion moderator. The job required technical knowledge covering the entire range of the REALbasic language and common applications, along with strong communication skills. The success of REALgurus led the company behind REALbasic to establish their own forums.

### **CONTRIBUTOR, OPEN SOURCE PROJECTS**

I have had patches accepted to several high-profile open source projects, including Adium (a Mac OS X instant messaging application), Ettercap (a network attack suite), Pidgin (an instant messaging application), and MacCode (a library of useful OS X code). I am currently involved with bringing Decompyle (a Python decompiler) up to date for Python 2.5. This is a volunteer position.

## Accomplishments

### **1ST PLACE, ACM/UPE PROGRAMMING COMPETITION, RPI**

I participated in an undergraduate programming competition hosted by the Rensselaer student chapter of Upsilon Psi Epsilon, the computer science honor society of the Association for Computing Machinery. I wrote four solution programs in three hours to win first place. My accomplishment was recognized by Morgan Stanley.

### **PUBLISHED PAPER, COGWORKS LABORATORY, RPI**

I am second author on a paper, "Defining the Dimensions of the Human Semantic Space," based in part on my research in the CogWorks Laboratory at Rensselaer. The paper was accepted for publication in the proceedings of the 30th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society and will be presented as a poster.

### **2ND PLACE, INFORMATION SECURITY TALENT SEARCH 6, RIT**

My computer security team, RPISEC, and I traveled to the Rochester Institute of Technology to participate in a computer security competition. Our team had five hours to configure a secure server running a number of services (e.g., FTP, HTTP, SMTP). Afterwards, we had five hours to attack other teams' services. RPISEC placed second amongst twelve competitors. We were recognized by the *Rensselaer Insider* bulletin for faculty and staff.

### **13TH PLACE, INTERNATIONAL CAPTURE THE FLAG 2007, UCSB**

RPISEC participated in the iCTF 2007 computer security wargame hosted by the University of California, Santa Barbara. We assessed the provided services for exploitable vulnerabilities, and fixed them locally while attacking our competitors. I participated in the vulnerability assessment, as well as in solving separate challenges in forensics, cryptography, and other categories. My team placed 13th out of 36 and ranked second amongst U.S. participants.

## Education

**RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE**, Troy, NY — Computer Science; GPA 3.74 as of Spring 2008

**DRYDEN HIGH SCHOOL**, Dryden, NY — Graduated with Advanced Diploma, 2007

## Skills

### **PROGRAMMING**

C, C++, Java, JavaScript, ECMAScript, Objective-C, perl, Python, REALbasic, SQL, Visual Basic 6, Visual Basic .NET  
Apple Xcode IDE, Eclipse IDE, Subversion, Bugzilla / Trac, Doxygen

### **COMPUTER SECURITY**

Applications of cryptography; dynamic and static analysis; secure coding practices

### **SOFTWARE**

Microsoft Windows (2000 Professional–Vista), Apple Mac OS (9.0–10.5), Linux (Ubuntu, Fedora distributions)  
Apache (LAMP), Microsoft Office (2000–2007), Apple iWork, Adobe Dreamweaver, Mathematica