Hitarth Thanki

forgewithhitarth@gmail.com | hitarth.dev

Education

B.S in Computer Science, University of Houston *Expected May 2027*

Experience & Leadership

Chief Technology Officer, BestFit Learning *May 2025 - Present*

- Conducted 200+ parent interviews to validate homeschooling pain points and inform product direction
- Built and iterated on multiple MVPs, testing core hypotheses through rapid cycles of user feedback
- Own technical roadmap and architecture decisions while balancing feasibility with product vision

Director, CodeRED Astra Hackathon *Jan 2024 - Oct 2025*

- Led a 7-person team to organize a 270-person event (selected from 450 applicants), delivered 53 final projects, and finished $5k under the budgeted spending amount.
- Led and delegated marketing, logistics, tech development, and sponsorships while stepping in to fix problems, help, and unblock team members
- Built sponsor pipeline strategy that raised $20,000 through tiered benefit packages.
- Set roadmap and priorities across competing workstreams; ran weekly syncs and adjusted scope based on team capacity

Projects

Spara AI - Senior Design Capstone *Jan 2025 - June 2025*

- Led backend architecture using FastAPI and PostgreSQL, implementing RESTful APIs for AI-powered customer support chatbot with OpenAI integration.
- Worked in a 7-person team and managed rigorous code reviews using Git workflows and PR standards.
- Achieved 100% test coverage with pytest through Test-Driven Development, delivering clean, maintainable code that passed all course requirements and integrated with Jenkins CI/CD.

Stellar Scholars | Link *Jan 2024*

- Built a space-themed web-browser based educational game using JavaScript, Three.js in a team of 4 in 24 hours at my first hackathon.
- Integrated OpenAI API for generative quizzes and intelligent chatbot, integrated with the physics engine for interactive game mechanics.

Dropawf *Jan 2024 - Apr 2024*

- Developed pet-themed package tracker web app using React frontend and vanilla Node.js backend for class project.
- Designed core backend features including authentication, database schema with MySQL, and API endpoints; coordinated with 4 teammates, building the server from scratch.

Awards & Recognition

- TamuHack X: Best Software Design, Best AI Application, L3Harris Challenge, 4th in Software Track
- Meta RNE Hackathon 2024: 2nd Place Overall (Diff Busters)
- QVIDTVM x The Ion Hack Day 2025: 3rd Place (solo)
- Dean's List (Fall 2023), University of Houston