

Richard Nii Lante Lawson

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EDUCATION

Methodist University College, Ghana (MUCG) • <i>B.S. in Information Technology</i> , yet to graduate • <i>Diploma in Information Technology</i> , graduated August 2020. CGPA 3.4/4 Presbyterian Boys' Senior Secondary School • <i>High School Diploma, Applied Science (West African Senior School Certificate Examination)</i> . CGPA 3.1/4	August 2018 – June 2023 October 2011 – June 2014
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EXPERIENCE

African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), Web Development Lead [Knowledge Hub] • Supervised and lead a team of 3 junior software engineers during the development of a robust upgrade of the institution's software applications, resulting in improved user experience and a 19% revenue increase within a 6 months period. • Utilized software engineering expertise to develop products throughout the software lifecycle to boost business efficiency, from ideation and requirements definition through development and successful deployment. • Enhanced the application's features to effectively fix the bugs and optimize the overall performance, reliability, and efficiency of the production platforms. • Worked with PHP - Laravel, Postman, PHP PEST, Bootstrap, jQuery, Microsoft Teams and Git (GitHub) in a Linux environment.	November 2021 – Present
Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), Systems Provisioning Officer [2021 Population and Housing Census] • Part of the core team that programmed and executed robust application software on the devices (tablets and laptops) that field officers used to conduct the main census to collect data from respondents. • Responsible for affixing barcode labels and geo-fencing tools alongside its services to track and locate field officers' devices and other stakeholders involved in real-time, aiding in effective monitoring and evaluation of the main census. • Provided rapid solutions and proactive troubleshooting support to swiftly resolve subtle and complex issues remotely and physically when needed as part of the core members of the software systems provisioning team. • Extensively used PHP - Vanilla, Postman, PHP PEST, Python, Google Docs and Sheets, Zoom and Git (GitHub) in a Linux environment.	March 2021 – August 2021
Dansoman Polyclinic (DPC), Data Analyst, National Service Personnel • Part of the core team that was responsible for converting hardcopy of patient appointment records into digital versions which were later sent to the regional database for preservation and further data analysis. • Responsible for cleaning, sorting and enhancing patient digital data records more meaningfully to enable medical officers to understand the trends with illnesses per weather season. • Responsible for liaison with non-technological personnel in the facility to generate simple solutions from complex situations to aid in the transmission of data from one non-technological source to another. • Extensively used Microsoft Excel and Word.	August 2020 – July 2021
Origin Limited, Junior Software Developer, Contract [details] • Developed the system's internal notification feature during transactions on the "EPrepaid" platform. • Designed and led the development of the activity log feature responsible for tracking every activity occurring on the production platforms, enabling 100% of auditing as and when authorised persons need. • Part of the core development team that developed comprehensive external client CMS systems. • In charge of identifying, diagnosing, and fixing minor patches of web application problems, including broken links, typographical errors, and textual formatting issues in addition to documenting the system's How-To guide. • Technologies used PHP - Laravel, Postman, PHP PEST, Bootstrap, jQuery, Slack, and Git (GitHub) in a Linux environment.	September 2017 – March 2018

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Ghana NLP, Machine Learning Researcher and Software Developer [details] • Part of the data team that researched A BERT Now in Akan (ABENA) which is responsible for translating the English corpus to the Akan language which is in three different variances. • Part of the engineering team that contributed to the translation API via writing code, testing and documentation which is responsible for making data requests for software developers to consume through other system applications. • Associate lead on the team that worked on the main web portal via writing code, testing, documentation and deploying successful versions of the solution to the live server with GitHub Actions as CI/CD pipeline. • Worked with Python - FastAPI, Postman, PyTest, Slack, NumPy, PyTorch, Jupyter Notebooks, R, Plotly, Jekyll and Git (GitHub) in a Linux environment, StreamLit.	September 2020 – Present
Lecture Hall Scheduling System (LHSS), Final year project [details] • Leveraged expertise in software development with my team members in establishing a lecture hall scheduling system with features that login credentials to access the solution, and also responsible for scheduling lecture rooms, assets such as projectors, and student population pertaining to a particular lecture and time hence reducing redundancy in time slot allocation and also aiding in asset tracking alongside monitoring user activities. • Technologies used PHP - Laravel, Postman, PHP PEST, Bootstrap, jQuery, Slack, and Git (GitHub) in a Linux environment.	November 2019 – August 2020

AWARDS AND ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

• President , Methodist University Information Technology Student Association (MUITSA) [details]	June, 2022 – Present
• Information Technology Head , Methodist University Ghana Student Representative Council (MUG SRC)	June, 2022 – Present
• Protocol Lead – Logistics , Ghana Data Science Summit, 2022 [details]	September, 2022
• Speaker - Machine Learning for Developing Countries , Africa Digital Skills Conference [details]	December 2021
• Development Volunteer , Developers in Vogue [details]	May 2017 – September, 2022
• 1st Runner-up, AFAAS - Africa , Team Kultivate - <i>Continental Hackathon on Crop Calendar and Weather Information Systems</i>	November 2021
• 1st Runner-up, GFAASS - Ghana , Team Kultivate - <i>National Hackathon on Crop Calendar and Weather Information Systems</i>	November 2021
• Lead Organizer , NeurIPS – Accra, Ghana [details]	December 2020
• 1st Runner-up, NASA International Space Apps Challenge – Accra, Ghana , Solaris Lab - <i>National Hackathon on Design by Nature</i> [details]	October 2018

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Azunre, P. et al. *Contextual Text Embeddings for Twi*. [ArXiv:2103.15963](#) 2021.
- Azunre, P. et al. *English-Twi Parallel Corpus for Machine Translation*. [ArXiv:2103.15625](#) 2021.
- Azunre, P. et al. *NLP for Ghanaian Languages*. [ArXiv:2103.15475](#) 2021.

- **Expertise** in Laravel, jQuery, Django, FastAPI, OpenCV, NumPy, PyTorch, Jupyter Notebooks, R, Plotly, and Docker.
- **Experienced with** Python, PHP, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Bash, MySQL, SQLite, NoSQL (Firestore), Git, and Redis.
- **Interest** in Renewable Energy, Waste Management, Farming, Music, Swimming, Teaching/Facilitating, and Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning.

