

Hitarth Thanki

forgetherwithhitarth@gmail.com | hitarth.dev | linkedin.com/in/hitarth-thanki

Houston, TX

Education

B.S in Computer Science, University of Houston

Expected May 2026

Activities

Director of CodeRED, Cougar Computer Science

Jan 2024 - Present

- Led the development of full hackathon infrastructure to scale from 270 to 400 participants, including:
 - Modern Next.js/React website with participant registration and event information
 - FastAPI judging application for streamlined project evaluation
 - Python Discord bot for real-time communication and participant support
- Leading a 7-person organizing team while balancing full academic courseload, delegating specialized tasks, firefighting issues, and filling gaps across marketing, logistics, and participant experience
- Secured multiple corporate sponsorships totaling \$15,000 (and growing), putting the event on track to break even by summer/fall—a milestone unachieved by previous organizers.

Projects

Spara AI - SDP Capstone Project

Jan 2025 - Present

- Led backend development for a customer service chatbot feature, working in a 7-person team to create seamless user-AI interactions for a startup
- Built a flexible AI integration system with Langchain, FastAPI, and Python, allowing admins to switch between models (Google Gemini, etc.) with one click
- Achieved 100% test coverage through Test-Driven Development, delivering clean, maintainable code that passed all course requirements and integrated with Jenkins CI/CD

Stellar Scholars | [Code](#) | [Link](#)

Jan 2024

- Built an educational space-themed web game for kids in 24 hours at my first Hackathon, leading a team of beginners to complete the project
- Integrated LLM technology to enhance gameplay while learning web development (React, JavaScript, Pixi.js) on the fly
- Set up GitHub workflows and Cloudflare Pages deployment pipeline, managing team collaboration for efficient development

Dropawf | [Code](#)

Jan 2024 - Apr 2024

- Built a complete backend server from scratch for a pet-themed package tracker using JavaScript, Node.js, and MySQL as one of two developers
- Designed and implemented user authentication, RESTful APIs, and package tracking features, applying software architecture principles
- Deployed across multiple platforms (Cloudflare Pages, Render, Azure MySQL), delivering a successful live demo for class evaluation

Diff Busters

Nov 2024

- Created a working prototype in just 5 hours with a 3-person team that won 2nd place at Meta RNE Hackathon
- Built a Python solution to detect and fix configuration drift across network devices, addressing a key challenge for network administrators
- Developed a real-time monitoring dashboard with automated recovery workflows, demonstrating rapid prototyping under tight time constraints

- Analyzed security vulnerabilities in production vehicles and consumer drones despite no prior cybersecurity experience
- Used signal analysis tools (GQRX, HackRF, SDR) and automotive protocols (CAN bus, LIN, Automotive Ethernet) to identify security weaknesses
- Presented findings to professionals from Customs and Border Protection and Michigan Cyber State Police, receiving valuable expert feedback

Awards

- Stellar Scholars @ TamuHack X hackathon (\$500 in total): Best Software Design, Best AI Application, L3Harris Challenge, and 4th in Software Track
- Diff Busters @ Meta RNE Hackathon 2024 (\$75 in total): 2nd Place overall
- Dean's List (Fall 2023), University of Houston
- QVIDTVM x The Ion Hack Day 2025 (250\$): 3rd Place (competed solo against teams of up to four)