

John-Paul Takats - Curriculum Vitae

I'm an IT professional who has worked as a visiting lecturer at RIT's School of Information, an IT strategist at RIT, tech lead, and consultant. A full-stack developer who has managed all parts of the development cycle, balancing my technical skill set with strong foundations in business, marketing, and project management. A passion for sharing knowledge through teaching and a firm believer and contributor to many open-source projects.

<https://www.jptweb.com>

While this document provides an overview of my qualifications and experience, a visit to my portfolio at [jptweb.com](https://www.jptweb.com) offers a much richer, interactive experience that more effectively showcases my skills and work. I encourage you to explore it for a comprehensive view.

Contact Information

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Education

Degree	Field	Institution	Date
Master of Science	Professional Studies Concentrations in HCI & Marketing	Rochester Institute of Technology	2014
Bachelor of Science	Information Technology	Rochester Institute of Technology	2006

Academic Employment as Faculty

Adjunct Professor

Rochester Institute of Technology - Interactive Games and Media
August 2024 to Present

Visiting Lecturer

Rochester Institute of Technology - School of Information
August 2019 to May 2024

Adjunct Professor

Rochester Institute of Technology - Information Science and Technology Department
January 2016 to May 2019

Other Employment

a. *Accelerate Media Inc*

Solutions Architect / Full Stack Developer May 2024 - Present

At Accelerate Media, I facilitate strategic initiatives by blending creative and technical expertise to deliver measurable results for clients in marketing, advertising, and development. I oversee full-stack development projects, leveraging tools like WordPress and REST APIs to create responsive, user-driven experiences. My unique combination of technical skills, leadership, and marketing knowledge allowed me to collaborate effectively with SEO professionals, bringing a holistic approach to all my projects. (note: job title currently being tweaked; originally was Full Stack but currently working w/ management to get title change to Solution Architect)

b. *Rochester Institute of Technology - Enrollment Management*

Information Technology Strategist / Technical Lead. 2013 - 2019

As a technology leader within RIT's Enrollment Management Division, I have driven the design, development, and implementation of key systems supporting Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions, and Financial Aid. I created FeedMasher, powering a significant portion of RIT's homepage for over five years, and designed a social networking platform for 15,000 users. I led teams building full-stack applications, spearheaded the adoption of CRM platforms (Oracle and Slate) for enrollment, and served on the RIT Web Advisory Committee, shaping web and infrastructure strategy campus-wide.

c. *Rochester Institute of Technology - Undergraduate Admissions*

Web Analyst / Full Stack Developer. 2013 - 2019

Supported technology and web development in the Undergraduate Admissions Office, enhancing recruitment and selection efforts to meet freshman and transfer enrollment goals. Key achievements included creating registration systems and collaborating on strategies for a prospective student pool exceeding 100,000 annually. I also implemented content management systems and employee portals, enabling admissions counselors to efficiently manage recruitment travel and outreach.

d. *Bantam Creative - Founder* (2013 - present)

As the founder and creative director of Bantam Creative, I lead a team that designs, develops, and implements web-based solutions, blending technical expertise with marketing strategies to deliver standout applications. We specialize in standards-driven, cross-compatible web development, multimedia-rich sites, and cloud-based solutions, including customer service and collaboration tools.

a. Notable Clients:

- i. National Human Resources Foundation (website migration to Joomla)
- ii. The Learning Tree Daycare Center (full brand and website development)
- iii. Newdigs (developed a Wordpress site and Wordpress theme)
- iv. Dobber Fantasy Sports Network (e-commerce support)
- v. Harmony Productions (website and brand development)

- vi. Rochester Underground - Custom CMS for a site with 40,000+ registered visitors

- e. Streamteam
Lead Software Developer (2007 - 2009)
I joined a team of developers to provide leadership and coordination, helping guide a talented group of programmers toward more structured goals. I created an MMS message delivery system powered by Microsoft ASP, built a custom CMS in classic ASP and Microsoft SQL, and developed a Joomla CMS for the Rochester Underground website, all while navigating the limitations of server constraints.

- f. ArtVoice Magazine
Assistant Web Developer. Modified & created extensions for Mambo CMS using PHP, set up a server environment using Apple Xserve.

Teaching

Please visit my teaching highlights document for a much more extensive overview of all my work teaching at RIT.

jptweb.com/teaching

Curriculum Development

- a. 2024 - ISTE 240 Web and Mobile II - trial of interactive textbook (ZyBook) for teaching javascript and PHP in Spring 2024. Currently evaluating several chapters and a dozen labs to pilot in Spring.

- b. 2023 - GCIS 123 - Development of an Array HW for Unit06 of the course. (see John-Paul's Teaching Highlights Document for more details).

- c. 2022 - ISTE 140 Web and Mobile 1 Major revamp and new interactive textbook integration. Began as a pilot over the summer, to be ready to launch in Fall 2022 to over 8 sections with 6 instructors all teaching ISTE-140 on the Rochester campus of RIT simultaneously. Implemented an interactive digital textbook (ZyBook) to replace historical powerpoints. Added custom material not found in ZyBook and adapted 100s of ZyLabs, Zybook participation and challenge activities to fit into existing rubrics.

- d. 2021 - ISTE 645 Foundations of Web Technologies I. Implemented progressive enhancement principles into the course, wireframing, and team-work project to create a multi-disciplinary design document.

- e. 2020 - ISTE 646 Foundations of Web Technologies II. Redesigned much of the class to support modern web services and MySQL databases as opposed to flat

files.

- f. 2020 - ISTE 140 Web and Mobile 1 Online Course. Recorded dozens of videos to create an online asynchronous version of web and mobile 1 that has since been offered in subsequent summers.
- g. 2019 - 2020 Web and Mobile I (ISTE-140) rework of the MyCourses Master Shell to fix multiple issues. Introducing more wireframing and mockup concepts to support the building of responsive websites.
- h. 2017 Recorded a series of lectures for Rapid Online Presence using Molly, an in-house content management system developed by RIT Professor Ron Vullo.
- i. 2016 Recorded a video lecture series for installing the Joomla Content Management system and put it on YouTube. This was optional content for the Rapid Online Presence Course.

Courses Taught

- a. IGME-330 Rich Media Web Application Development I - This course examines client and server-side web development and features common to such applications. Issues explored include framework characteristics, information management, presentation, interactivity, persistence, and data binding.
- b. GCIS-123 Software Development and Problem Solving I - (Python / Intro to programming class) A first course introducing students to the fundamentals of computational problem solving.
- c. ISTE-140 Web & Mobile I - This course provides students with an introduction to internet and web technologies, and to development on Macintosh/UNIX computer platform.
- d. ISTE-240 Web & Mobile II - More advanced web design topics including database. Extends concepts from 140 including usability, accessibility, information architecture, and graphic design in the context of the web.
- e. ISTE-205 Digital Image Creation & Photography - This course explores the creation and manipulation of digital images intended for use on the Web. Topics include basic digital photography, acquisition of images, and intermediate image manipulation.
- f. ISTE-206 Digital Video Creation - This course explores the creation of digital video intended for use on the web. Topics include basics of digital videography, acquisition of audio, editing, streaming, compression, as well as storytelling with video and integration into web sites and applications.

- g. ISTE-305 Rapid Online Presence - This course gives students understanding of and experience with installing and customizing websites using tools such as Blogs, Wikis, content management systems, and website toolkits.
- h. ISTE-405 Web Integration & Application - The final course in the minor in web design and development (for non-GCCIS majors). Students will develop a deeper understanding of technologies underlying the web and how to combine them.
- i. ISTE-645 (Graduate Level) Foundations of Web Technologies I - This class provides an introduction to internet and web technologies.
- j. ISTE-646 (Graduate Level) Foundations of Web Technologies II - Topics include advanced internet technologies (including, but not limited to: AJAX, server-side programming, database use and access, client libraries, server frameworks, and creating and consuming information services).
- k. Fully prepped to teach: ISTE-230 Introduction to Database and Data Modeling. I had fully prepared to teach this course in Spring 2024.

M.S. Capstones/Theses Advising

a. Advisor / Chair

- i. 2023. Nigudkar, M. Capstone: MERN Stack Hotel Booking Application. RIT
- ii. 2022. Bapat, M. Capstone: Free Fitness Mantra for Everyone through Pandemic and Post Pandemic including Clothing Finder and Diet Tips. RIT
- iii. 2022. Jaiswal, R. Capstone: Evaluating Using LaTeX to help improve the accessibility of an open-access journal. RIT
- iv. 2021. Chen, C. Capstone: Improving Human Subjects Research Office at RIT's Website. RIT
- v. In Progress:
 - i. Han, L. Assessing and Optimizing Dual Navigation Systems on the RIT website: A Case Study (Spring 2024)
 - ii. Greeshma Ganji - Exploring Adaptive Machine Learning Models to Predict the Low-cost Airplane Tickets (committee member: Cecilia Alm)

a. Committee Member

- i. 2023. Walawalkar, N. Capstone: How to make apps popular on Google play store: Visual Analysis of google play store app features. RIT
- ii. 2022. Garg, K. Capstone: Online Bookstore for a Customer-to-Customer E-commerce Web Application. RIT
- iii. 2021. Shah, V. Capstone: Influence of Elon Musk's Tweets on the price of Bitcoin and Dogecoin and Price Prediction. RIT
- iv. 2021 Arora, A. Capstone: Rezume: A Web-based resume builder system for university students
- v. 2020. Nahar, L. Capstone: Evaluating Features, Building recommender system for Amazon TV and movies reviews. RIT.
- vi. 2020. Kandalgaonkar, R. Capstone: Automatic Tag Suggestion For Stackoverflow Questions Using Machine Learning. RIT.
- vii. In Progress:
 - i. Ya-Hsuan Yang - Redesign Figma to help designers to build accessible website (chair: Weeden)
 - ii. Indrani Eagapati - Intelligent Food Waste Reduction System at an American Restaurant using Predictive Analysis (chair: Tom Oh)

Service

RIT Service

- a. **iSchool Projects Capstone Repository 2022 - 2024**
I designed and developed a web-based repository for graduate capstone projects at the School of Information (iSchool) at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). Built on the central Drupal CMS, this repository serves as both a promotional tool for the iSchool and a valuable resource for current students.
<https://www.rit.edu/ischoolprojects/>
- b. **Retention Committee for RIT's School of Information**
2022
- c. **Open@RIT**
2021 - Present
- d. **iSchool Senior Project Development Course Review Committee**
2020 - Present. Member.
- e. **iSchool Capstone Defense Process Committee**
2020 - Present. Member.

- f. **iSchool Undergraduate Research Committee.**
2020 (Fall). Founding Member.
- g. **Web and Mobile Computing Curricular Group**
2019 - Present. Member.
- h. **Accessibility Sub Group for RIT Web Development Standards**
2018. Member.
- i. **RIT Mobile App Strategy Committee**
2018 - 2019. Member.
- j. **RIT Web Advisory Committee**
2012 - 2019. Core Leadership Member.
2008 - 2019. Developer. RIT Web Technology Committee
- k. **RIT Social Media Task Force**
2008 - 2012. Member.
- l. **Enrollment Management Web Advisory Committee**
2008 - 2019. Member.
- m. **Search Committee for RIT Chief Information Security Officer**
2016. Member.
- n. **Official RIT Web Standards Sub Committee Rewrite**
2015. Member.
- o. **Student Information System Replacement.**
Search and Implementation Group representing RIT Enrollment Management
2013 - 2015. Member.
- p. **Mobile App Bus Stop Module**
2013. Lead.

Professional Service

- a. **Next Chapter Project**
June 2024 - Present. ***Mentor***
 - Serving as a mentor to formerly incarcerated individuals as they embark upon a 12 week boot camp; Next Chapter Project helps to empower people with the skills, confidence, and support necessary to transition post-incarceration into meaningful, skilled careers in the tech industry.
- b. **American Statistical Association (ASA) Rochester Chapter**
2020 - Present. ***Coordinator of Web Technology***

- c. **Rochester Area Colleges (RAC)**
2016 - 2019. *Web Coordinator*
- d. **Upstate New York Counselor Tour**
2016 - 2019. *Web Coordinator* (<https://unytcounselortour.org/>)

Web Development / Open Source Community

- a. **Wordpress SVG Object Plugin (creator)**
(<https://github.com/jptweb/wp-svg-object-block>) a free open source Wordpress Block plugin for embedding SVGs to a website as an object and inject parameters into them so they that can be manipulated with javascript and other libraries such as SnapSVG built. Parts of it are built using react.
- b. **Feedmasher.org (creator)** - a system that is capable of gathering digital content from a wide array of sources such as traditional RSS feeds, Twitter tweets, Youtube Videos, Instagram and more. <http://www.feedmasher.org/>
- c. **Popcorn.js a Mozilla Project (contributor)** - The HTML5 Media Framework. Contributed some development time and bug fixes to the software repository.
- d. **JFusion a Single Sign on solution for Joomla CMS (contributor)**. Developed a plugin for the ELGG open source system to support SSO in Joomla.
- e. **Jabode Horoscope Component for Joomla (creator)**. A free open source component I developed that could be installed on a web site that runs on a popular open source content management system (Joomla)

Professional Memberships

- a. **American Statistical Association (ASA) Rochester Chapter**
Member at Large / Coordinator of Web
- b. **Higher Education Web Professionals (HighEdWeb)**
Member, 2008 - 2021
- c. **Digital Rochester**
Member, 2011 - 2012

Recent Community Outreach Presentations

- a. **Presented for Women In Computing at RIT (WIC)**. Fall 2022.
Topic: Crash Course in Web Development - developing, hosting, and deploying a

website in under an hour with all cloud based software.

- b. **Presented for The National Society of Black Engineers. Fall 2022.**
Topic: Workshop and Presentation to develop, host, and deploy a website using cloud based software. Tailored for students not in a computing discipline.

Professional Development

- a. 2021. SIGITE Conference Online Attendee.
- b. 2019. Early Alert Training, RIT.
- c. 2018. Campus Intruder Readiness Training, RIT.
- d. 2018. Google Analytics Tag Manager and Dashboard Training. Sponsored by the RIT Marketing Division (2 day training).
- e. 2017. Technolutions Slate (RIT admissions system vendor) Campaign Training
- f. 2017. Technolutions Slate Portal Training
- g. 2017. Ally Training (LGBT Center), RIT.
- h. 2016. Keurogo Framework Training, RIT
- i. 2013. Oracle Peoplesoft Developer Training, RIT
- j. 2011 International Oracle / PeopleSoft Alliance Conference, Denver Colorado
- k. 2008 - 2018 Attended the HighEdWeb Conference each year for professional development.

Conference Presentations

- a. 2014. Presenter. HighEdWeb. FeedMasher - a feed aggregator for RIT.
- b. 2012. Presenter. HighEdWeb. Rethinking the Virtual Tour: An Immersive Experience that's More Than A Map

Scholarship

MS Capstone Project

- a. Implementing FeedMasher - A System that Aggregates and Coordinates Digital Content Across RIT. April 16, 2016. Submitted as a Capstone Project Report in partial fulfillment of a Master of Science Degree in Professional Studies at the Rochester Institute of Technology

Additional Projects / Works

Software systems & Collaborations

- a. 2024 AI Portfolio Builder - Portfolio Queen. leverages GPT models to create an AI-driven portfolio builder. The idea behind it was to help individuals, especially those without HTML/CSS experience, build a professional website portfolio without the time commitment required by other solutions like Wix or

custom page builders.

<https://www.jptweb.com/blog/creating-an-ai-driven-portfolio-builder/>

- b. 2014 - 2017. FeedMasher Application. With RIT Web Advisory Committee guidance, work began in 2014 to redesign the RIT home page and to introduce a new concept in institutional communication. RIT has since released any rights to the project and it has been made open source: <http://www.feedmasher.org/>
- c. 2012 RIT Interactive StreetView Tour. The RIT Undergraduate Admissions office set out to create an immersive and interactive tour-like experience that mimics aspects of the real-world tour while also embracing geographically-based media available on the internet, including Google Street View, student-recorded tour information, social media widgets, photos and videos. While RIT's tour relies heavily on Street View, the principles explored here can be applied to different types of media.

From Code To Community

<https://www.rit.edu/spotlights/code-community-weaving-real-world-non-profit-projects-web-technologies-course>

- a. 2024. North Lyon Cardio Drumming - We collaborated with a small organization that offers health and wellness classes that needed a web presence beyond a facebook page for promotion.
- b. 2023. Masterminds. MasterMinds is a quiz bowl-style academic competition for high school students. Working with the head of this non-profit organization to update their web presence with a team of 11, composed of software engineers and HCI students.
- c. 2022. Marketview Heights of Rochester. Working with a class (ISTE-646) to deliver a not-for-profit organization which assists lower income families avoid foreclosure and assist first-time homebuyers. We are revamping their entire web presence and brand, including the ability for staff to update the website themselves. Also a component to be able to list properties around Rochester for first time buyers.
- d. 2022. Britton Road Cemetery Association. Working with a class (ISTE-646) to complete a project for a local not-for-profit organization called the Britton Rd. Cemetery Association. Although the students are at the core of this project I am doing extensive work to convert the data which is currently housed in excel spreadsheets, and MS Access records that track thousands of gravesites, burials, and donors since the students do not yet have much database experience. This old data is being converted into a more modern relational mySQL environment