Atul Varma
Brooklyn, New York
E-mail: varmaa@gmail.com
Website: http://portfolio.toolness.org/
GitHub: https://github.com/toolness/

Experience

2016-Present - Innovation Specialist, 18F (General Services Administration), Brooklyn NY

- Technical lead for calc.gsa.gov, a market research tool for federal contracting professionals. Wrote extensive developer documentation; created and maintained a style guide; ensured the site's Django-based back-end worked efficiently and was secure, fault-tolerant, and well-tested; migrated the legacy front-end from jQuery to React; participated in user research and design sessions to build empathy with end-users and ensure our product met real needs.
- Created Accessible color palette builder, an Elm-based tool to help visual designers create palettes appropriate for audiences who may have visual impairments.

2011-2015 - Tinkerer, Mozilla Foundation, Brooklyn NY

- Co-Created Hackasaurus and the Web X-Ray Goggles. The goggles, featured in an Atlantic article, are a bookmarklet-based tool that allows traditionally non-technical users to look beneath the surface of a webpage to see how it's made and tinker with it in a playful way.
- Created Collusion, a browser extension providing a real-time visualization of third-party tracking activity on the Web. This project became the centerpiece for a TED Talk given by the CEO of Mozilla and went on to receive a grant from the Ford Foundation. It is now known as Lightbeam.

2014-2015 - Artist-in-Residence, Eyebeam, Brooklyn NY

- Co-designed and developed Minicade, a tool for creating minigames and/or playlists of them on the Web. Minicade's Minigame Maker is a mobile-friendly web app that allows users to create standalone HTML5 minigames without typing any code.

2008-2011 - Tinkerer, Mozilla Labs, San Francisco CA

- Co-created Jetpack, a next-generation platform for building restartless Firefox Add-ons. It is now known as the Add-on SDK.
- Co-created Ubiquity, a linguistic command-line interface for the browser.

2005-2008 - Vice President, Humanized Inc., Chicago IL

- Developed Enso, a linguistic, quasimodal alternative to the graphical user interface (GUI) of an operating system. Enso was written in Python with low-level modules implemented in C.

Education

2003-2004 - The University of Chicago

- Received a M.S. in Computer Science, with a 4.0 cumulative GPA and a Faculty Letter of Commendation for my accomplishments and outstanding contributions to the Computer Science Professional Program.

1997-2001 - Kenyon College

- Graduated Magna Cum Laude with a 3.81 cumulative GPA and elected into Phi Beta Kappa.
- Received a B.S. in Mathematics, with a minor in Philosophy and a concentration in the Integrated Program for Humane Studies (IPHS).