

# William Henry Hakim

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## Current Address

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## Education

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### Oxford University

M.St. in Chinese Studies.

Oxford, UK

9/14–8/15

### Harvard University

A.B. *magna cum laude* with Highest Honors in East Asian Studies, Computer Science. 3.8 GPA.

Cambridge, MA

9/10–6/14

John P. Reardon Jr. '60 Award, presented to Harvard's all-around most outstanding male scholar-athlete.

## Work Experience and Accomplishments

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### Avalanche Insights

*Senior Software Engineer*

San Francisco, CA (Remote)

10/21–Present

- Led the team building Avalanche Insights' Theme Engine, an active learning system for qualitative coding built on top of transformer models.
- Built data pipelines for processing unstructured text, generating sentence embeddings, optimizing embeddings for downstream tasks (clustering, classification, LLMs, etc.), and performing supervised and unsupervised learning

### The Information

*Senior Software Engineer*

San Francisco, CA (In-Person)

4/19–10/21

- Implemented core features, including a personalized content recommendation system based on users' past activity, The Information's mobile payments data infrastructure, and an in-house system for conducting A/B tests
- Built statistical models for predicting users' propensity to subscribe and churn
- Introduced the Sorbet typechecker to The Information's Ruby codebase
- Reduced cloud costs by 60% by tuning app server multiprocessing/multithreading configuration and optimizing slow database operations

### The Shorenstein Center at the Harvard Kennedy School

*Research Software Engineer*

Cambridge, MA (Remote)

11/17–4/19

- Built the Single Subject Team's open source email benchmarking toolset, allowing media organizations to analyze their own data and benchmark their performance against peers
- Built microservices for Harvard's Information Disorder project. Microservice functionality included OCR, image comparison using locality-sensitive hashing, text processing, and entity detection

For previous work experience and further details, please see [linkedin.com/in/williamhakim](https://www.linkedin.com/in/williamhakim)

## Skills, Languages and Other Interests

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**Foreign Languages:** Near-native proficiency in Mandarin Chinese (written and spoken)

**Other:** I represented the United States in rowing. I love racing road and gravel bikes. I am a triple US/British/Portuguese citizen.