

# ATHANASIOS KOUGIONIS

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## PROFILE

Resourceful, and innovative Software Engineer with over 3 years experience in multiple programming languages, API development and maintenance. Skilled in providing strategic leadership of short- and long-term goals using innovative techniques in support of the company's mission and core values, to implement positive change and increase performance. Adept at enhancing team performance, and proactively identifying opportunities for development and advancement. Proven track record of collaborating with end user and developer communities to deliver innovative solutions.

## SKILLS

**Soft Skills:** Fast Learner, Team leadership, Attention to Details, Organizational Skills, Effective Communication, Relationship Building, Strong Work Ethic, Time Management, Problem Analysis & Resolution

**Software skills:** Java, AWS, SQL, Python, SQL, API

## EDUCATION

**Lehigh University | Bethlehem, PA**

**Aug 2018 – May 2022**

B.S, Computer Science and minor in Economics

**Coursework:** Software Engineering, Analysis & Design of Algorithms, Machine Learning, Computer Vision, Blockchain, Data Structures, Web Systems Programming, Database Systems, Systems Software, Operating System Design.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Senior Backend Software Engineer**

**July 2024 - Present**

*VISA inc*

- Architected and implemented high-performance, fault-tolerant microservices and APIs to support business growth improving system reliability.
- Mentored junior engineers and led code reviews, fostering a culture of best practices, continuous learning, and technical excellence.
- Led the design, development, and optimization of scalable payment systems using handling millions of requests per day.
- Played a key role in migrating legacy monolithic applications to a microservices architecture, reducing system downtime and improving scalability.
- Optimized serverless infrastructure and cloud-based systems, reducing operational costs by 13% while maintaining system performance.
- Optimized database performance, including schema design, indexing, and query tuning, improving query execution time.

**Backend Software Engineer**

**July 2022 – July 2024**

*VISA inc*

- Maintained and developed scalable and efficient solutions, adhering to best practices and architectural patterns.
- Implemented RESTful APIs to facilitate seamless communication between frontend and backend systems.
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams to gather requirements and deliver high-quality software products with project deadlines.
- Participated in code reviews and provided constructive feedback to peers, promoting code quality and consistency.
- Leveraged AWS Lambda to implement serverless microservices and S3 to store and serve static assets and media files.
- Utilized GENAI as an assistance tool to improve efficiency of personal work.

**Software Development Intern**

**May 2021 – Aug 2021**

*Citrix, Patras, Greece*

- Created high-quality software design and architecture, as well as applications in accordance with technical standards.
- Automated tasks through appropriate tools and scripting.
- Performed validation and verification testing.
- Applied advanced troubleshooting techniques (debug and diagnosis) on critical problems.
- Implemented scalable, efficient, and cost-effective network automation framework.
- Wrote and tested code to ensure compatibility and stability: refine and rewrite as necessary.
- Configured and maintained wide area network (WAN) or local area network (LAN) routers or related equipment.

**Research Assistant**

**May 2020 – Sep 2020**

*Creative Inquiry & Mountaintop Initiative, Lehigh University*

- Developed a new programming language, MECH, used for developing data-driven and reactive systems.
- Created process diagrams and charts to explain the capabilities of a new programming language before coding them.
- Conducted routine audits to identify program inefficiencies and brainstorm methods to enhance the process.
- Created curriculum and instructional support that targeted and engaged all students in the usage of MECH for small-scale robotics programming.
- Scheduled and collaborated with students individually and in small groups to evaluate and enhance learning and increase overall performance.

**Research Assistant**

**May 2020 – Aug 2020**

*Computer Science Department, Lehigh University*

- Constructed algorithms to dynamically route energy-aware vehicles with temporal logic constraints.
- Implemented deterministic and cost-efficient fuel model algorithms using Python.
- Addressed motion planning problems with specifications given in linear temporal logic formulas.
- Encouraged the creation of heuristics or approximation algorithms that produce acceptable results with a reduced level of complexity.
- Conducted case studies on the findings of that algorithm and simulated the data in VREP via scripts written in Python.

## LANGUAGES

**English(fluent)**

**Greek(fluent)**

**German(limited working proficiency)**