
Tyler Hinman *(he/him)*

Puzzle Expert and Software Engineer

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Inveterate puzzle enthusiast with expertise in solving, testing, and constructing. Developer of popular cognitive games. Software engineer with more than fifteen years of experience in a variety of technologies and languages.

PUZZLE CONSTRUCTING

- Freelance crossword puzzle constructor
 - Publications include the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *GAMES Magazine*
 - Puzzlemaker for tournaments in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and New York
 - Founding contributor to *The Onion AV Club* crossword (now *AVCX*)
 - Author of *Winner's Circle Crosswords* (Puzzlewright Press, 2013)
- Constructing team member for the MIT Mystery Hunt (2008, 2010, 2016, 2024)
- Riddle designer for The SF Hunt (Handstand, 2016)

PUZZLE EDITING AND TESTING

- Cryptograms editor for *The Enigma* (National Puzzlers' League, 2007-2012)
- Guest editor of the *AVCX* cryptic crossword (June 20, 2020)
- Crossword puzzle tester
 - Provide feedback on clue grammar, style, and accuracy
 - Point out difficult crossings and possible improvements to grid fill
 - Have tested for *AVCX*, Puzzlewright Press, and Brendan Emmett Quigley
- Tester of logic puzzles for Grandmaster Puzzles and the Puzzle Grand Prix

PUZZLE SOLVING

- Seven-time American Crossword Puzzle Tournament champion (2005-2009, 2021-2022)
 - Youngest champion in event's history (age 20)
 - Profiled in the documentary *Wordplay* (IFC Films, 2006)
- Winning team member at the MIT Mystery Hunt (2007, 2009, 2015, 2023)
- Contestant on *SuperHuman* (FOX, 2017)
- USA B-Team member at the 2005 World Puzzle Championship (Eger, Hungary)

OTHER GAME EXPERIENCE

- Inventor of six Lumosity games covering memory, flexibility, and etymology
 - Primary inventor on US Patent #8821242 for Pinball Recall
- Weekly pub quiz host at Dogpatch Saloon (San Francisco, CA)
- Official at the 2023 World Sudoku and Puzzle Championships (Toronto, Canada)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Crossplay Digital, Vancouver, BC - *Software Engineering Contractor (part-time, remote)*

APRIL 2025 - PRESENT

- Introduced ads and premium membership to the Crosswordr platform (React, GraphQL)
- Upgraded website's design to improve user experience

Pomelo, San Francisco, CA - *Senior Software Engineer*

JANUARY 2023 - AUGUST 2024

- Solved customer-specific technical issues and overarching issues (PostgreSQL, third-party tools)
- Streamlined KYC/anti-fraud process and reorganized related event database (Java/Spring)

Vouch Insurance, San Francisco, CA - *Software Engineer*

JULY 2019 - JUNE 2022

- Created back-end event processors to automate sales-related API actions (TypeScript)
- Developed module that assigned correct insurance pricing codes based on address (Rails)
- Interpreted and presented live company data via dashboards (Python, Snowflake)

Lumos Labs, San Francisco, CA - *Games Engineer/Designer*

NOVEMBER 2011 - JANUARY 2019

- Designed and coded cognitive games (Flash/ActionScript 3 and Cocos Creator/JavaScript)
- Regularly conducted user testing sessions to evaluate and iterate on game mechanics

Google, Mountain View, CA - *Consumer Operations Tools Engineer*

JUNE 2008 - SEPTEMBER 2011

- Developed Python scripts to automate processing of customer support tickets
- Earned Google's readability certification in Python

EDUCATION

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY - *BS (Cum Laude), Information Technology*

AUGUST 2002 - MAY 2006

- Concentration in Machine and Computational Learning
- Minor in Management and Technology
- Recipient of Founders Award of Excellence, awarded to 1% of students
- Honor societies: Gamma Nu Eta and Order of Omega