

Kevin Payravi

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SUMMARY

Software engineer working in the intersection of technology and open knowledge. I build web tools that help people discover and contribute to free information, with most of my recent experience being software development for the Wikimedia ecosystem and the Digital Public Library of America. I also organize communities, having co-founded WikiPortraits, organized WikiConference North America, and secured more than 20 grants for Wikimedia programs and initiatives. Before freelancing, I spent nearly seven years at Capital One working on developer platforms, data infrastructure, and security tooling.

EDUCATION

Master of Library & Information Science, Kent State University, August 2022

Bachelor of Computer Science & Engineering, The Ohio State University, May 2017

WORK EXPERIENCE

Digital Public Library of America

Software Developer (Contract), April 2026 – Present

- Develop and maintain the main dp.la website.
- Work on the data ingestion pipeline that brings partner collections into DPLA.
- Improving analytics for the platform.

WikiPortraits

Co-founder, software developer, photographer, January 2024 – Present

- Co-founded the WikiPortraits initiative to capture high-quality portraits of notable individuals and cultural events for Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects.
- Co-leading team of over 100 photographers who have contributed 100,000+ photos from around the world, receiving 1 billion+ page views per year across Wikimedia projects.
- Developed several tools and web applications to support our organizers and photographers, including a portfolio management platform and onboarding wizard.
- Photographed numerous significant cultural events as press, including but not limited to Sundance Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Riddu Riddu, and the Nobel Prizes.

Wikimedia Foundation

Lead Developer (Contract), Depiction Viewer, August 2022 – January 2023

- Developed View it!, a suite of tools that enables the discovery of freely-licensed media on the Wikimedia Commons.
- Created a web app that allows querying for media by Wikidata item IDs.
- Created a REST API to better enable users to query for media.
- Created a JavaScript widget that injects a gallery of images to the top of articles across all Wikimedia projects (including Wikipedia). Currently used by >200 editors.

Capital One

Software Engineer, Enterprise Services, August 2022 – May 2024

- Frontend development for an internal CI/CD platform used by hundreds of teams to build and manage deployment pipelines.
- Built accessible, reusable Lit web components for a shared component library, adopted across the platform.
- Migrated microfrontends to a static cloud service, improving reusability and reducing deployment overhead.
- Designed and implemented a developer-facing onboarding interface for a new application workflow.
- Onboarded our APIs onto New Relic, establishing observability and monitoring across services.

Software Engineer, Financial Services, August 2021 – August 2022

Software Engineer, Credit Risk Management, September 2019 – August 2021

- Built a self-service platform enabling business analysts to independently onboard and execute resource-intensive models.

- Managed data infrastructure pipelines processing terabytes of data per job.
- Engineered a custom AWS autoscaling solution that reliably scaled infrastructure on demand, cutting hosting costs by 60%.
- Received the Mark of Distinction award, recognizing top performers across the line of business.

Assoc. Software Engineer, Cybersecurity, September 2018 – September 2019

Assoc. Software Engineer, Financial Services, September 2017 – September 2018

SELECT PROJECTS

Sightglass (sightglass.toolforge.org) (code)

Sightglass reports view counts for files and whole categories on Wikimedia Commons, drawn from Wikimedia's Mediainfo data. Queries run on the server, and every query has a link that can be shared.

WikiPortraits Photo Service (photos.wikiportraits.org)

The public home for event coverage by WikiPortraits photographers: over 100,000 freely licensed photos from film festivals, sports, music, and more, browsable by event and photographer.

Cite Unseen (meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Cite_Unseen) (code)

A JavaScript widget that embeds icons on Wikipedia citations to indicate the nature and reliability of sources. It catalogs over 20,000 domains and is used by hundreds of Wikipedia editors across several language versions of Wikipedia.

Indie Wiki Buddy (getindie.wiki) (code)

Indie Wiki Buddy is a browser extension that helps users easily discover and support independent wikis they might otherwise miss in search results. When visiting a wiki on a large, corporate-run site, this extension will notify or automatically redirect users to quality independent wikis when they're available. Search results in Google, Bing, and DuckDuckGo can also be filtered, replacing non-independent wikis with text inviting users to visit the independent counterpart. Indie Wiki Buddy also supports BreezeWiki, a service that renders Fandom wikis without ads or clutter.

EXTRACURRICULAR LEADERSHIP

WikiPortraits – *Co-founder and Photographer* (2024 – Present)

WikiGameJam – *Co-founder and Organizer* (2024 – Present)

WikiHaus – *Co-founder and Organizer* (2024 – Present)

Wikimedia District of Columbia – *Board Member* (June 2018 – Present)

WikiConference North America – *Organizer / Steering Committee* (2017 – Present)

WikiCred / WikiCredCon – *Organizer* (2019 – Present)

Wiki Loves Monuments in the United States – *Organizer* (2016 – Present)

Ohio Wikimedians User Group – *Founder and Organizer* (July 2016 – Present)

HackOHIO – *Web Lead, Branding Lead, & Sponsor Coordinator* (March 2015 – May 2017)

CERTIFICATIONS

Amazon Web Services Solutions Architect - Associate, January 2021 – February 2024