Hello. I'm David J. Rappaport.

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I'm an innovator and a deep generalist. I bring a rare combination of product leadership, AI, engineering, and UX skills, and I draw on all of these to build products that meaningfully touch and improve people's lives. From building **cutting-edge AI-based products**, to sending **cloud-connected balloons to the edge of space**, to designing **smart writing utensils that unlock possibilities for people with disabilities**, to collaborating with **Kanye West and team to envision new ways of experiencing music**, I have a track record of highly impactful creativity and execution. As a leader, I excel at uniting diverse teams towards a shared vision, leveraging excellent communication skills and an empathetic approach which brings out the best in others. I believe in approaching each new challenge with authenticity and a willingness to grow, and I strive to bring this mentality to my work every day.

Experience

2022 - 2023

Senior Product Manager | Whisper.ai

– Worked to build a new class of hearing aid that uses AI to improve over time and outperforms the competition in difficult listening environments. My work at Whisper (a Forbes AI 50 startup) spanned product design, in-depth engineering and research collaboration, regulatory strategy and clinical trial execution, FDA interactions, and more. Key contributor to the company's successful acquisition in 2023.

2017 - 2022

Senior Product Manager | Microsoft Applied Sciences Group

– Ground-up product development in a fast-paced incubator at Microsoft. I led multidisciplinary teams (AI/ML, software, hardware, design, research, sales, marketing, etc.) to envision and create impactful new products and user experiences through deep technical innovation (e.g., the AI-powered Surface Hub 2 Smart Camera).
– Authored multiple patents; founded and led Microsoft Adaptive Accessories initiative to make computing more accessible for people with disabilities, which won first place in company hackathon and shipped in 2022.
– Grew within this role across several promotions, from Product Manager I/II to Senior Product Manager.

2016 - 2017

Electrical Engineer | Microsoft Applied Sciences Group

– End-to-end development (requirements through bring-up) of various projects involving custom hardware, firmware, and software.

Education

Class of 2020

MS in Human Centered Design & Engineering | University of Washington, Seattle

– 2020 recipient of Graduate Award for Academic Excellence. Graduated at top of class, achieving 4.0/4.0 GPA while working full-time. Notable coursework: Interaction Design, Usability Studies, Engineering Innovation in Health, Inclusive Technology Design, Information Visualization, Qualitative Research, Experimental Research.

Class of 2016

BS in Electrical & Computer Engineering | University of Colorado, Boulder

– Graduated with honors. Emphasis in digital signal processing. Held multiple TA and leadership positions within the College of Engineering and the Engineering Honors Program.

Additional Roles

2020

Engineering Consultant | UW Engineering Innovation in Health

— Consulted and mentored on a variety of medical device projects in the context of an academic engineering/health sciences incubator. Particular focus on embedded systems design and software prototyping.

2020

Independent Collaborator | Shift Labs

— As my MS capstone project, I worked with medical device startup Shift Labs to design the user experience for the next generation of the DripAssist infusion rate monitor. Work included foundational research and multiple rounds of interaction design, prototype creation, and testing with clinicians.

2012 - 2015

FIRST Robotics Lead Mentor | Fairview High School

— Having experienced the impact of a high school robotics program firsthand, I took on the lead mentor/coach role with a local robotics team, teaching high school students how to apply engineering principles and building a positive and fun team environment in the context of a competitive robotics competition.

2012 - 2015

Internships

— I completed multiple internships during my undergraduate years, including:

Microsoft Applied Sciences Group (2015)
Microsoft Surface (2014)
National Instruments (2013)
Webscan (2013 - 2014)
EMTech (as engineering consultant, 2012)