

POOJA KHANAL

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER

mail@poojakhanal.com.np | [linkedin.com/poojakhanal](https://www.linkedin.com/in/poojakhanal) | github.com/Khanalpooja

EDUCATION

University of Alabama in Huntsville

Masters of Science in Computer Science

Aug 2019 – Aug 2021

Huntsville, AL

Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University

Bachelors in Electronics and Communications Engineering

Oct 2013 – Sep 2017

Nepal

EXPERIENCE

Software Developer/Independent Researcher

April 2024 – Present

Freelance

- Actively engaged in technical volunteering (refer to Technical Volunteering section below)
- Collaborated with researchers at The University of Tennessee USER Lab for software supply chain security awareness in software developers - currently under submission at CCS 2026
- Worked on various software projects mostly utilizing React and Java Spring Boot

Quality Assurance Engineer

Sep 2021 – Oct 2023

America's Collectibles Network - Jewelry Television

Knoxville, TN

- Engineered a Spring-based full-stack test automation framework for .NET based eCommerce platform achieving 40% code coverage in Java using Selenium
- Implemented Behavior-driven development (BDD) using Cucumber tests saving 40 hours/week manual effort and accelerating regression cycles by 50%
- Performed detailed system analysis and requirements gathering sessions to translate business needs into actionable technical specifications
- Executed REST API testing and validated SQL/NoSQL databases to ensure data integrity using PostMan, SoapUI
- Identified and fixed over 1000 code smells and multiple security issues using SonarQube
- Achieved a 30% reduction in deployment time by integrating automated unit, integration, and regression tests within the Jenkins CI/CD pipeline
- Attained a 20% faster project fulfillment and delivery by collaborating with stakeholders and teams to analyze requirements, conduct product demos, and translate needs into technical solutions

Graduate Research Assistant

Aug 2019 – Aug 2021

Information Technology and Systems Center - University of Alabama in Huntsville

Huntsville, AL

- Architected and implemented cloud-based SaaS projects in AWS for a NASA-funded research center, specializing in big data solutions for satellite imagery
- Designed and implemented cloud infrastructure and APIs to store, partition, and query large-scale precipitation data (CAPRI Project)
- Improved Amazon Athena query performance by 350% by benchmarking and adopting Parquet storage format
- Created and managed AWS-based cloud with infrastructure as code in Terraform for HPC research
- Documented APIs with OpenAPI specifications and generated interactive docs using Swagger
- Implemented real-time visualizations in a 3D data visualization platform using AngularJS that integrates and visualizes diverse NASA datasets (FCX Project)
- Supported multiple publication for projects by executing software benchmarks, analyzing results, and contributed to manuscript contents

Associate Quality Assurance Engineer

Oct 2017 - July 2019

Logpoint Nepal Pvt Ltd

Nepal

- Developed automated test scripts with Selenium WebDriver, achieving a 40% increase in testing efficiency and a 30% boost in defect detection rates for web applications
- Integrated testing with CI/CD processes using Jenkins, resulting in a 35% reduction in average delivery times, to streamline deployment and software updates
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams to refine testing requirements and expand test coverage
- Strategically deployed diverse testing methodologies across development phases: black box for initial UX assessment, white box for code analysis, smoke tests for post-integration checks, and regression testing to ensure ongoing functionality, enhancing overall web application quality
- Managed and streamlined Agile project management processes, including comprehensive backlog grooming, strategic sprint planning and mentoring new hires

TECHNICAL VOLUNTEERING

United Nations Development Project (UNDP)

Instructor

Remote

- Volunteered as Instructor for Frontier Tech Leaders Programme - Machine Learning Bootcamp in Ethiopia
- Conducted hands-on workshops and training sessions on programming fundamentals and advanced concepts, and software development practices
- Developed instructional materials, including comprehensive tutorials, presentations, and exercises to facilitate effective learning

Sarvamangal Cooperative Finance

Instructor

Nepal/Remote

- Taught fundamental computer skills to women in financial cooperative, empowering them with digital literacy to enhance their personal and professional opportunities
- Designed and conducted training programs focused on practical tools such as Microsoft Office, internet usage, secure online behaviors and communication platforms

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Java, Python, JavaScript, C/C++, SQL, HTML/CSS

Frameworks: Spring, Flask, React, Angular

Developer Tools: Linux, Git, Docker, VS Code, SVN, Jenkins, Terraform, Jira, Confluence, Maven, Swagger

Cloud Technologies: AWS (Lambda, DynamoDB, S3, Boto3, API Gateway, Athena, Glue, EC2, IAM), Google Cloud Platform, Portainer, Kafka

Database Management: PostgreSQL, PL/SQL, MongoDB, SQL Server, DynamoDB

Testing Tools: Selenium, Cucumber, Gherkin, Postman, TestNG, Jmeter, SonarQube, pytest

PUBLICATIONS

[In submission] Gautam, A.[et al, including Khanal, P.](2025) We avoid adding secret backdoors: A survey of software developer awareness of supply chain attacks. CCS 2026

Koppola, S.[et al, including Khanal, P.](2021) Cloud-based Analytic Framework for Precipitation Research (CAPRI) to Enhance the Spatial Resolution of GPM Data. AGU Fall Meetings.

Selvaraj, N.[et al, including Khanal, P.](2021) Advancing precipitation research with a deep learning framework. AGU Fall Meetings.

Beck, J.[et al, including Khanal, P.](2021) Advancing Precipitation Research with Cloud-based Technologies. AGU Fall Meetings.