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# Tyler Hinman *(he/him)*

## Puzzle Expert and Software Engineer

San Francisco, CA

tyler@tylerhinman.com

**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)
- Co-designer of MrBeast's million-dollar puzzle hunt with Salesforce (2026)
- 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)

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## 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)
- Builder of software to assist construction of Zip and Crossclimb games on LinkedIn

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Crossplay Digital, Vancouver, BC** - *Software Engineering Contractor (Remote)*

APRIL 2025 - MARCH 2026

- Made miscellaneous improvements to front end, including ad integration
- Technology: TypeScript, React, GraphQL, Postgres

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

JANUARY 2023 - AUGUST 2024

- Streamlined onboarding KYC process and worked closely with support team
- Technology: Java/Spring, PostgreSQL

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

JULY 2019 - JUNE 2022

- Improved sales team's productivity through automated event-processing modules
- Technology: TypeScript, Ruby on Rails, Python, Vue, Snowflake

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

NOVEMBER 2011 - JANUARY 2019

- Designed and coded games (web and mobile) that exercise cognitive abilities
- Technology: 2D projects in Unity/C# and Cocos Creator/JavaScript

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

JUNE 2008 - SEPTEMBER 2011

- Specialized in scripts to automate processing of customer support tickets
- Technology: Python (earned readability certification)

## 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 (for IT majors) and Order of Omega