

Aref Zahed

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MSIS, IT Engineering, DMC-E, ITIL

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Profile

Senior-level **Computer Science Researcher, Professorial Lecturer , and Technology Leader** with a **proven track record** of delivering **advanced software and hardware solutions** to support business and educational needs while **minimizing risks**. A highly motivated professional with a strong ability to **evaluate, optimize, and enhance processes and procedures**. Adept at **project management, team leadership, and strategic planning**, with **exceptional communication skills** to ensure successful project execution.

Key Skills

- ✎ Expertise in **computer engineering, artificial intelligence, robotics, cybersecurity, and computer security**.
 - ✎ Proficient in **project management**, leading teams, and delivering **high-quality product development**.
 - ✎ Strong background in **strategic planning, technology implementation, and process enhancement**.
 - ✎ Extensive experience in **software development, cybersecurity policy design, and risk management**.
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Professional Work Experience

Professorial Lecturer / Term Faculty – Computer Science

American University | August 2022 – Present

- Teach **Cybersecurity, Computer programming, Robotic and AI-related courses** while mentoring and guiding students.
- Established and lead the **AI & Robotics Club**, fostering **interdisciplinary learning, innovation, and hands-on experience**.
- Developing **AU's Solar Car Team** to promote **sustainable engineering solutions**.
- Created **robotics course materials and developed a humanoid robot** for the Department of Computer Science.

- Spearheaded the **integration of ERP-based classroom technology** to enhance instructional efficiency and safety.
- Mentor students in **AI and robotics**, helping them advance research and technology applications.
- Member of the **ADVANCE AU committee**, working on securing NSF's grants and sharing resources, and executing grant objectives.
- Developing **American University's CyberLab** in the **Spring Valley Building**, supported by a **\$5 million gift from Shahal M. Khan**, in partnership with **Cyber Range Solutions (CRS)** and **AU Khan Institute for Cybersecurity**.
- Working closely with the **Dean on the CAS AI Steering Committee**, contributing to the **strategic development of AI policies and initiatives** at AU.
- Established the **Department of Computer Science Student & Alumni Network** on LinkedIn and serve as a **member of the Public Relations Committee**.
- Actively participate in **departmental and university-level research and teaching conferences**.
- Mentor STEM students, overseeing a **team developing STEM-related software projects**.

Technology Researcher & Founder

Gravity-ITS | April 2016 – Present

- Conduct advanced research on **cybersecurity threats, including ransomware, unauthorized access, and file injection vulnerabilities**.
- Developed **AI-driven robots** for **commercial and research applications**.
- Innovated **SmartClass, software-based Audio/Visual Switching Systems**, reducing **costs and improving energy sustainability**.

Lead Information Technology Specialist / Supervisor

George Mason University | February 2012 – July 2022

- Supervised **ITS CALT operations**, ensuring classroom technology systems met **high-quality standards**.
- Designed **technology-driven learning environments**, developing **engineering plans and overseeing technology construction projects**.
- Recommended and implemented **network and system infrastructure upgrades** to improve **educational facilities and IT operations**.

- Oversee and **lead cybersecurity operations** for classroom technology infrastructure by guiding engineering efforts to design secure systems.

Chief Executive Officer & Founder

Arvinsoft | September 2000 – February 2012

- Led **engineering operations** with a **team of 150 engineers**, delivering **high-quality software solutions**.
- Developed **vision-based smart robots for highway monitoring** and **ERP platforms for government applications**.
- Designed and oversaw **smart sensing and positive train control systems**, ensuring **high-impact safety and automation**.

Senior Vice President & CTO

Nahid Cultural Institute & Art University | April 2003 – December 2010

- Led **IT operations, system architecture design, and technology strategy** to maximize efficiency.
- Managed **technology budgets, procurement, and enterprise system integration**.
- Ensured the **confidentiality and integrity of university data and information systems**.

IT Director & Head of Smart City E-Government Project

Isfahan Municipality | April 1998 – April 2003

- Led a team of **engineers from 25 organizations** to design and implement **smart city platforms**, improving **urban management and governance**.

Education

 **Master of Management of Secure Information Systems (MSIS) (Cybersecurity) | 2014 – 2016**
George Mason University, USA

 **Bachelor of Information Technology Engineering | 2004 – 2007**
Iran University of Science and Technology, Tehran, IRAN

 **Bachelor of Soil Engineering | 1990 – 1994**
Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, IRAN

Inventions & Publications

- **Humanoid Dawn** (*Book*): How AI Robots Are Redefining Our World. **(2025)**
 - **RedLine**: Cybersecurity model detecting **live hard drive activity threats** – Presented at **ACCS (2023)**.
 - **Iris**: AI Humanoid Robot for **natural human interaction**. Recognized by AU President.
 - **Sarah**: AI-driven virtual teaching assistant – Presented at the **36th Annual Ann Ferren Conference (2025)**.
 - **Spidey**: American University's **first AI robot**.
 - **The Future of Learning – AI, VR, and the Metaverse in Education**: Presented at **ACCS (2024)**.
 - **SmartClass**: Classroom technology solution – Presented at **ACCS (2023)**.
 - **RF-EcoRay**: Solar-powered vehicle project (under development).
 - **EagleOne: Autonomous drone for aerial navigation** (under development).
 - **Bluetooth Communication Security**: Research on **connected medical devices**.
 - **PSIAC AI Modeling**: Using AI to predict **sediment yield behind dams**.
 - **Isfahan: The Great World Heritage**: Multimedia encyclopedia, awarded by the **IRAN Art Academy**.
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International Awards & Recognition

- 🏆 **Medal of Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Human Settlements** (*Malaysia, 2002*) – Recognized for **IT innovations in urban and green area management**.
- 🏆 **Advanced Traffic Control Police Robot** (*Iran, 2009*) – Awarded for developing a **fully functional robotic system integrating lasers, image processing, and satellite communication**.
- 🏆 **Best White Paper** (*Iran, 2000*) – Recognized at the **Soil Science Conference** for **applying AI to predict sediment yield**.
- 🏆 **Isfahan: The Great World Heritage** (*Iran, 2006*) – Best **Cultural Multimedia Encyclopedia**, awarded by the **IRAN Art Academy**.