- **Full name**
    - Daniel Marashlian
- **Degree(s)/major(s) (and minors) completed at UA**
    - Bachelors of Science, Computer Science
        - Minor in Mathematics
- **Year degree(s)/major(s) completed**
    - 2004
- **Hometown**
    - Sedona, AZ
- **Current position/role**
    - Co-Founder/CTO @ Drata
- **Something interesting that people might not generally know about you (chess champion, amateaur photographer, write comics, arm wrestling champion, for examples)**
    - I have a tortoise named Flash and I love playing Tennis and Ping-Pong

- **Why did you decide to attend the University of Arizona?**
    - When graduating high school in 2000, most of my friends were going to ASU. Though ASU only had a Computer Science and Engineering degree. I wasn't interested in the hardware aspect of computers, and the University of Arizona had a pure software focused Computer Science degree.
- **Why did you select computer science as your major?**
    - This is a funny story… in my last semester at high school, very similar to most of my peers, I had no idea what major I wanted to study in college. So I remember looking at the USA Today newspaper (yes, people used to get their news from a newspaper back then) and in the top right of the page were the results of a study where it had the top paid professions from a university degree. Computer Science was number one and Computer Engineering was number two (you have to remember this was early 2000 in the peak of the dot-com bubble). I was good at math and science, so I said, "Computer Science, that sounds fun."
- **What did you enjoy most about your experience at UA Computer Science?**
    - The professors really cared about teaching, and more importantly, making sure that you really understood the concepts. While it was hard (I remember writing 40-page proofs by hand in my algorithms class), the professors and their course work altered the way I think about solving problems. Which built the foundation of my programming and entrepreneurial career.
- **What is your favorite memory of your time at University of Arizona?**
    - Even though there were more than 30,000 students at UofA, it felt like a smaller campus and tighter community vs. some of the other universities I saw (or where some of my friends were). I lived right across campus on Speedway and Park in these tiny 2-bedroom houses (I don't think they're there anymore), so even though I lived off-campus, it felt like I was in a community.

- **Was there a faculty member in CS that had a positive impact on you?**
    - Dr. Patrick Homer had a huge impact on my time at UofA. He was a great professor, but an even better mentor. In my senior year, he held a class on MacOS development where there were only two students in the class! Not only did we get an enormous amount of one-on-one time with him, we were allowed in the special programming lab where there were two state of the art Macs. Also, after I graduated and was trying to get my first programming job, I was deciding on going back to school and getting my doctorate in Computer Science. I ran this idea by Patrick and in a good way, he talked me out of it. He realized I wasn't going to be happy doing research and teaching at a University, and that I needed to work in the field. I'm forever grateful to Patrick for that moment and push I needed to start my entrepreneurial career.
- **Tell us about your current position/role. How did you get there? Why is this role important?**
    - I'm a Co-Founder and the Chief Technology Officer at Drata. I run all things technology at Drata which includes, Application Development, Platform Engineering, Infrastructure Engineering, Security, IT, Compliance, Program Management, Data, and QA. Drata helps companies automate their security compliance programs. We help companies get and maintain their compliance across various security and privacy programs like SOC 2, ISO 27001, HIPAA, PCI, GDPR, CCPA, NIST SP 800-53, and many others. We make boring things easy!
    - I started as a software engineer at a Rio Salado Community College building Learning Management Systems and helping manage the data of 60,000 students. After working there for a few years, getting to understand the ins-and-outs of working in a "real job", I quickly realized that working for someone else wasn't for me. Since then I've started eight companies. Some failed fast, some went on to be great outcomes. Though all roads have led to starting Drata with amazing people that I've worked with throughout my career.
- **What advice would you give a student looking to get in your field? Position/role?**
    - My advice I give to all aspiring developers is GO ALL IN. This isn't a field where you learn a few things and you master those skills over time. to focus on Computer Science, there are countless verticals to go learn and master over your career. You'll never stop learning. Instead of watching reruns of some television show you've seen 20 times, go watch the latest F8 conference, or classes from AWS re:Invent. Stay up till 3am figuring out the fundamentals of Flexbox so you can position things on a browser. And most importantly, no matter how high up in the organization you are, never loose touch with your technical skill set. As I always say, make sure you still have your "hands on keys" time.
- **What advice would you give to a student considering CS at UA?**
    - It will challenge you in more ways than you know, your brain will adapt and change in the way you problem solve. It will be hard. Though in the end, it will be worth it.

- **What advice would you give to a student already pursuing CS at UA?**
    - Once in, don't give up on your early CS classes because you don't understand what the professor is talking about in the first few weeks of the course. Wait till it seeps in a bit more and you understand the core concepts and truly what this field of study is about.
- **Anything else you want to share with people viewing this video (advice, funny story, etc.)?**
    - This field of study attracts a lot of introverted people. While nothing is wrong with being an introvert, my main advice is to open your mind and heart to making human connections throughout your time at UofA in and out of the CS department as well as in your first job or two out of college. You'll never know where those friendships will take you. I met my current Co-Founder Adam Markowitz on the ping-pong tables at an incubator in San Diego. And now we've started two companies together and are on track to building a public company together.