Final Reflection Assignment

I, Satyen Amonkar, am a Fall 2018 Graduate Student, pursuing my Master's in Information Management at Syracuse University, iSchool. Along with my Master's in Information Management, I am also taking specialized courses to obtain certificate of advanced studies in Data Science. I am passionate about challenging and data analysis oriented job roles which motivated me to join Arkadium for the Data Science Intern position. My objective towards doing data science internship was to gain practical experience in the field of data science as well as networking with employees having diverse technical backgrounds.

In the past 24 weeks, I have gotten real-world exposure on several technical concepts that I had learned during my one and half year at Syracuse University. Here, I was encouraged to learn new technologies and overcome my limiting beliefs on day to day basis. I was rewarded the extension to my internship for my expertise in R language and Principal Component Analysis. The experience at Arkadium polished these skills and with the guidance of my manager, Audley I was able to explore the same problem in a new direction. I worked on principal component analysis and time series analysis with real customer data for the first time at Arkadium. Here, I also gained hands-on experience on concepts such as clustering, natural language processing, big data analysis and machine learning algorithms that I learned from the courses I had taken in Syracuse (IST 687: Introduction to Data Science, IST 659: Data Admin Concepts & Db Mgmt., IST 718: Big Data Analytics, IST 719: Information Visualization). In addition to what I had already learned at Syracuse University, during the last internship I got the opportunity to work on a data science concept called Time Series Forecasting. This concept is an amalgamation of statistics as well as finance which supplements my academic endeavors at Syracuse University. I developed a liking in this concept and took the MBC 638 course this semester to learn deeper about this concept. The courses IST 719 and MBC 638 that I took this semester, have significantly helped me understand some technologies used at Arkadium and in turn improve my standing here. During my co-op, I also got introduced to two new projects, data preparation using USQL and market basket analysis for game recommendation. Arkadium has thus helped me leverage my learnings and improve my understanding of vital data science concepts.

On behavioral side, the experience was quite helpful to me. Since the company maintains a close-knit team with overall 89 employees located across two different offices, I got the opportunity to interact with employees in different teams such as game design team, game development team, testing team, analytics team, etc. These small talks, in turn, have helped me in improving my communication skills with peers.

During my tenure at Arkadium, I have learned deeper about the norms and informal rules at the company. Firstly, Arkadium is very transparent about business operations as well as employees' progress. I really appreciate this as here, employees are aware of the small company triumphs as well as raising concerns within the company. This prevents grapevine and strengthens the bond between the employees and higher officials. Further, managers often give constructive feedback to employees that help them progress in their respective fields. Whenever anyone sets up a meeting, they make sure the participants are aware well in advance and are clear with the agenda of the meeting. This way the participants have a rough idea of what is going to be discussed in the meeting and are more attentive. The company has casual wear dress code which is more comforting for employees especially during hot summer or rainy days. The CEOs Kenny and Jessica zealously follow the core values of the company. For instance, one of the core values is fierce drive, the CEOs are actively involved in all the company events and themselves give welcoming orientation to each employee. This way the company owners are setting a good example for the employees. Arkadium also has a work-life balance as one of the core values. I can recollect an occasion when I have unknowingly worked a little past time and my manger has advised me to work on the next day instead. My manager always encouraged me to enjoy my life at the fullest. Since the company is close-knit, it is easy to connect with employees. The owners take great effort making sure that each employee is both physically and emotionally involved with the company. There have been occasions when things were hindering our work such as wall painting odor or heavy rains. The people innovation team made sure that every employee is alright and allowed work from home for those days. When I associate the learnings of IST 618: Information Policy with my work at Arkadium, ethically, I have never seen any employee discriminate others based on their gender, race or any similarity. Furthermore, the HR team is critical with accurate time sheet filling and immediately inquire in case of any concern. Here, I have observed that the authorities appreciate the effort and give it more

importance than outcomes. When I compare my organization with the preliminary readings, it is clear to me that Arkadium is slowly moving in the direction of success. I am glad to know from my tenure at the company that my personal guidelines for a successful internship are truly aligned with Arkadium's mission.

During my tenure at Arkadium, I had to give several presentations to my managers and stakeholders. The teachings from the courses (IST 614: Management Principals for Information Professionals and IST 719: Information Visualization) were beneficial to me here, as it taught me how to present insights to people who have no knowledge about its content. The teachings also helped me in maintaining good relations with my peers and higher officials.

To conclude, I would like to say that my experience at Arkadium has enhanced my technical and behavioral skills. The work has supplemented my academic endeavors and given me a new direction to work on for my career growth. Based on the constructive feedback given by my manager, I have decided to take IST 664: Natural Language Processing this Spring Semester at Syracuse University, which focuses on processing text in python. This experience has also given me the self-confidence to work as a Data Scientist full time.