**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 towards 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 12 weeks, I have gotten real world exposure on several technical concepts that I had learnt during my one year at Syracuse University. Here, I was encouraged to learn new technologies and overcome my limiting beliefs on day to day basis. I was awarded with the internship opportunity for my expertise in surveys and natural language processing. The experience at Arkadium polished these skills and with guidance of my manager, Audley I was able to explore the same problem in a new direction. I worked on surveys with such a high volume, in terms of records for the first time at Arkadium. Here, I also gained hands-on experience on concepts such as clustering, principal component analysis, big data analysis and machine learning algorithms that I learnt 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). In addition to what I have already learnt in Syracuse University, during the internship I got the opportunity to work on a data science concept called Time Series Forecasting. This concept is amalgamation of statistics as well as finance which supplements my academic endeavors at Syracuse University. I have developed a liking in this concept and would be taking courses soon that provide me more in dept knowledge in this domain.

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 the business operations as well as employees’ progress. I really appreciate this as here, employees are aware of the small company triumphs as well as rising 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 field. Whenever anyone setup 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 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 CEO’s Kenny and Jessica zealously follow 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 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 there were things 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. Ethically, I have never seen any employee discriminate other 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. It also makes me happy that based on my tenure at the company, I believe my personal guidelines to 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 IST 614: Management Principals for Information Professionals 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 MBC 638: Data Analysis & Decision Making this Fall Semester at Syracuse University, which focuses on statistics.