**Initial Reflection**

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 as a Data Science Intern. Arkadium is originally a casual game company who is creator of many classic games such as MS Solitaire, Mahjongg Dimensions, Word Wipe, etc. Arkadium’s mission is to unlock infinite possibilities by reinventing content. Arkadium founded in 2001, has grown significantly from being a casual game company to producing their own products such as InHabit, Factives and other web-based interactive content. My objective towards doing data science internship is to gain practical experience in the field of data science as well as networking with employees having diverse technical backgrounds.

The first few weeks as Data Science intern at Arkadium have been amazing. 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. Since childhood, I loved to play video games. Therefore, interacting with the team members involved in making most iconic games is a fascinating experience for me. My manager and higher officials are easily approachable in case of any concerns as well as for casual talks. As the first assignment, my manager provided me cyclic survey data to do text/sentiment analysis. The massive data was collected from partnering sites by asking users questions about their experience playing Arkadium’s Online Casual Games. My job was to present the actionable insights to stakeholders based on the user survey feedback. This internship has been the most valuable learning experience for me so far. Here, I am encouraged to learn new technologies and overcome my limiting beliefs on day to day basis. My manager is very supportive and provides me additional time to dig deeper into certain analysis if I feel it is valuable to the company. As a data science intern, I expect to learn many data science concepts such as natural language processing, text classification and clustering algorithms, machine learning algorithms during my internship tenure. I also want real-world exposure to python, R, PowerBi, MS Azure and U-SQL technologies. After completion of my survey data analysis my next project is on error message classification. Here my objective is to classify all the error messages based on severity and predict the most severe messages that kill user experience.

For my first project I have used technologies namely, R, PowerBi and MS Powerpoint. I have worked on natural language processing, sentiment analysis and pattern matching. The exposure to solving real world business problems has opened my eye to new approaches in using R and PowerBi. Even though I have worked on R for several years, this internship has shown me new approaches which optimize my results and provide enhanced visualizations. I gave several demonstrations to team members of my Survey Analysis insights and took their feedback to improve my presentation. Recently, I presented the actionable insights to the company stakeholders and was acknowledged positively by them for my efforts. I have also taken constructive feedback from the stakeholders in order to further polish my presentations skills and give an even better presentation for the next assignment. My manager and her manager (i.e VP of Analytics), have many years of experience working at Arkadium and are aware of many critical as well as probable issues within our information system. I am privileged to have both of them as my mentors. Whenever I show them my results, they guide me with the next steps to reinforce my proposition. They also give me tips how to keep the audience engaged during my presentation. In terms of improving my presentation skills it is seeming to be a truly valuable experience as I am now able to understand how to represent my technical project to a general audience. In the next project, I am looking forward to learning tools to manipulate big data such as MS Azure and U-SQL.

From my first few weeks as a data scientist 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 higher officials. 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 encourages 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 first few weeks at the company, I believe my personal guidelines to successful internship are truly aligned with Arkadium’s mission.