Internship journal 1

Company background

The institution where I participated in my internship was the New Zealand Institute of Plant and Food Research (PFR), one of seven Royal Institutes in New Zealand jointly funded by the government and investors. The Institute is an advanced research institute specializing in technology that not only researches advanced technologies while integrating them with traditional farming methods to improve the competitiveness of the global agronomy and related value-added food sectors, improves product quality and economic efficiency, and meets the world's most stringent phytosanitary regulations; the Royal, New Zealand Institute of Plant and Food Research, is also an institute focused on innovative research and has a leading position in the world The Royal New Zealand Institute of Plant and Food Research is also a leading research institute in the world, focusing on innovative research. The Institute has 15 research institutes, employs more than 1,000 people in New Zealand, and has four liaison sites in Australia and the United States. For example, the plant department of this company studies the biological information of different fruits or plants, tries to make some genetic changes or improve a particular fruit, and then tries to grow it until it is stable and can be put on the market. The red kiwifruit on the market is developed and bred by this company. The food department of this company also tries to create various foods that are not on the market.

Working environment and structure

The Plant and Food Research Institute is based in Mount Albert, where I work. There is a multi-person office with room for dozens of people in one office; the overall office environment is clean and comfortable, and colleagues chat and have lunch together. The office's four walls are glass, and on a good day, you can see the sky tower. Because it is a research institute, there are not many restrictions on the area and time of work, so when you are tired of working, you can choose to go out for a cup of coffee or chat with someone. If you are not feeling well, you can choose to work at home, as long as everyone can complete the work that needs to be done.

Among other work elements, each employee is assigned a laptop to work on, all office laptops are bitlocked (full disk encryption feature designed to protect data by providing encryption for the entire volume) and password protected, and any logins on the non-company network are done through Any logins on the non-company network must be done through a VPN connection on the work laptop, and multi Factor authentication must be performed on all connections. A lot of our work and coding is done on high-performance computing and data science platform called powerplant, which connects remotely using SSH via work laptops. It allows employees to oh-so-vast amounts of CPU, memory, storage, and GPU resources. I've mentioned before that sometimes it's possible to work from home, so we have a hybrid office model, so employees can choose to work from home or at the company, and I generally work at the company. Regarding the structure of the company, I have more than three supervisors in biology and informatics, and my project leader belongs to the bioinformatics department; she is mainly responsible for the knowledge issues in biology and gives me some support for my thesis. One is not directly involved in the project, and I have not had any meetings with him yet. The other one is in the project but not involved in programming, mainly answering my questions in coding, so for now, I need to do the main programming part of the project alone.