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Systems & Technology Research (STR)

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Dear STR Recruiting Team,

I am writing to express my interest in the Cyber Summer Internship position at Systems & Technology Research (STR). As a Computer Science student at Marymount University in Arlington, VA, I am eager to apply my technical knowledge and curiosity toward projects that strengthen national security and push the boundaries of modern research in AI. STR's mission-driven focus make it an ideal environment for someone such as myself; eager to learn, grow, and contribute to impactful solutions.

While I had not heard of STR until this job posting, I took the time to learn more about the company and the type of research you conduct. In particular, I came across STR's collaboration with Microsoft on the HAMMERITT program. Although computer vision is not my primary focus, I found this partnership fascinating—it reflects the kind of forward-looking, applied research environment that I want to be a contributing to. While my experience with computer vision has been brief, I am quite familiar with the broader AI development process, from data gathering to model fine-tuning for specialized use cases. One of my academic projects, for example, involved building an AI vision model capable of classifying Pokémon from the first three generations. This required sourcing and curating image data, fine-tuning a CIFAR-10 convolutional network using PyTorch, and deploying the model online for peer evaluation. Through this experience, I learned how to design, test, and present an end-to-end AI system.

Beyond technical development, I value communication and reflection as essential components of effective research. This semester, I started a personal blog where I write about my projects and new concepts I'm learning. The process of documenting and explaining my work has improved my ability to clearly communicate technical ideas and made me a more thoughtful and consistent writer. I believe these "soft" skills—paired with my experience in Python, C, and web development—position me well to collaborate effectively with STR's interdisciplinary teams.

I am particularly interested to STR's work in system design, and machine learning applications for national defense. The opportunity to work alongside experienced, intelligent researchers while contributing to meaningful problems is exactly the kind of challenge I am seeking for this summer. I am confident that my technical background, research mindset, and enthusiasm for learning align closely with STR's mission and values.

Thank you for taking the time to review my application. I have attached my resume for your consideration and would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss how I can contribute to your team's efforts this summer.

Sincerely,

Daniel Caldwell