



Self-Assessment Questionnaire

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Present Location:	Delhi, India
Current date:	23-Feb-2025

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	
Name & Location:	Chandigarh Engineering College, Punjab, India
Dates Attended:	2020 - 2024
Major:	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
Grade:	8.5
Why did you choose this particular school, and how has this influenced your career path?	<p>I chose Chandigarh Engineering College for its programming culture and to find like-minded innovative fellows. Coming onto how it influenced my career path, I believe it laid the foundation for my journey in the crazy possibilities of the tech world. From foundational courses on computer science to studying advanced subjects like Artificial Intelligence, it was quite fun. I used to learn and do a lot of random things while in college. I used to participate in hackathons, take part in competitive programming contests (I even got 174 AIR in one), and do some freelance stuff. All those experiences and learnings from my college somehow yelled at me that 'You are good at this!'. So all that dopamine influenced me to pursue my professional career in tech.</p>
Generally, what were your college years like?	<p>So answering this order-wise. In my Freshmen year, I was very excited to experience my campus life and meet people but a virus had other plans. Due to covid-19, the whole year went in home. I learned Photoshop and some digital art stuff in the meantime, and I did some web development combining those two skills. From an academic learning point of view, I learned discrete math, calculus, the C language, pointers, and</p>

	<p>memory management stuff.</p> <p>The second year was my first year. From an academic point of view, this was crucial; I did not want to lag behind but also wanted to get enough exposure to all the extracurriculars. Learned about digital electronics, data structures, algorithms, and object-oriented programming. It was very fascinating to know how semiconductors are such micro yet marvelous creations of mankind. From semiconductors to encoders and decoders. Our Digital Electronics professor always encouraged us to go for research in the future. His emphasis and mindset, I still carry specks of it within me. How many endless possibilities there are in this world that you can be at the forefront of.</p> <p>In the third year, we got introduced to subjects like the basics of AI, machine learning, and deep learning. We had to submit a project this year related to the coursework. I, with my friends, decided to do something on computer vision and chose facial recognition. How the project evolved from a simple DNN to adding convolution layers to it for optimization. And now thinking about how transformers absolutely dominate over any traditional machine learning technique is exciting. By the end of year, the placement season was approaching. In Indian colleges, companies visit colleges at the end of the third year to hire students. It was a very stressful time for younger me. So I decided to work harder and just brush up on my data structure and algorithms.</p> <p>The final year is when mostly students are busy preparing for placements and trying to break through in some organization. You have to complete one internship in a company and prepare a report on your learnings and experience there. Luckily, I was able to land an internship at Cloud4C. I did robotic process automation and did one project on DHL automation. I prepared a report about it and secured good grades. And guess what? Cloud4C was impressed with my performance and decided to hire me full-time.</p>
What were the best and worst times in your	Best: The second year was the best year during my college years; I participated in a lot of events,

college years?	<p>hackathons, and competitive programming events. It was very fruitful in terms of my academic growth as well as my personal growth. I participated in college events, folk dance society, and music. It was indeed the best time. I used to be so busy yet so happy. Just looking forward to the adventures of the next day.</p> <p>Worst: When I was unable to secure a placement. Everybody else around me was one by one getting placed, and I was struggling to clear rounds and getting shortlisted sometimes. But despite getting discouraged and disheartened, I worked on my shortcomings and possible areas of failure. Improved my resume and patiently kept trying.</p>
What were your career aspirations at the end of college?	<p>To be honest, I was in a dilemma about whether to pursue my career as an AI engineer or a software engineer because I was good at both. With AI booming, it naturally caught my interest. But at the same time, I was fascinated by big tech companies like Google and Meta and the idea of working alongside such talented software engineers. I was also keen on pursuing a master's degree and diving into AI research afterward. With all of that in mind, I was pretty confused.</p> <p>In the end, practicality led me to AI engineering—it offered the best of all three worlds. I get to explore AI, stay updated on its advancements, and build software applications using AI, sharpening my skills as a software engineer. There's something incredibly rewarding about delivering solutions at scale and seeing them make an impact.</p>

WORK HISTORY 1 – YOUR CURRENT OR MOST <i>RECENT</i> POSITION	
Employer:	Name: DeepForrest AI Location: Hyderabad, Telangana, India
Your Position Title:	Associate AI Engineer
Dates:	Start: Feb-2024 End:
Type of Business:	Service Delivery
Salary:	Starting: 8000 Ending: 9000 USD - United States Dollar Annual Salary
How did you find this	College Placement Program

job? (advert/headhunter/etc)	
What are the key challenges you've faced in this role and how did you overcome them?	With lots and lots of work at hand, I used to face challenges with time management. Over time, I realized how important it is to manage your time efficiently and set the right priorities. My manager helped me out with it and told me that you can make an 'Impact vs. Urgency' chart. It helps a lot, and I still use it. Since then, I have been better able to use my time and deliver things right on time and track everything.
Share an example of a failure or error you made at this job and how did you address it.	Once, without proper discussions or approvals, I decided to use a server for the application shiny-server. It is mostly used for R shiny applications. I had to build one Docker image, and there was a very tight timeline for it. So, without proper discussion and with no official email, I pushed the image to the CD pipeline with the shiny server as the application server. A few days later, the security team pointed out some vulnerabilities in the application, and the system security score dropped. I was called for it. I instantly realized it and decided to make a change to the server and, this time, proper discussions on it, made the required changes, and published the image to the CD pipeline with the new Nginx server. This time I sent one proper email about it, informing about the changes. "Email is the holy grail," my manager always tells me. Since then I always tend to overcommunicate on things and discuss as much as possible. Proactively identifying possible problems is necessary in tech and you can identify better while working in a team. Discussions and communication are very important.
What did you like the most, and the least, about this job?	<p>Most: Just within a few months after joining, I was assigned important responsibilities. This is, to date, what I like most about the job. The trust and faith that supervisors' put in you. There is no superiority complex in anybody.</p> <p>Least: Working hours sometimes stretch for more than 8, and sometimes you have to work on weekends. In my personal humble opinion, there should be a balance between stakeholders' timelines and what engineers' suggest. Not just for the work-life's sake,</p>

	but even for better deliverables. Haste makes waste.
What is the biggest impact you had at this organization?	There was one project that nobody was ready to invest their time on, and it was being considered very lengthy and complicated by the management. I was assigned to the project, and now that project is worth more than 15 million INR. Our company's founder personally praised me, quoting, "Vinay, you are great at making the best of what is given to you. You make it look like it was so easy.". The project is now owned by our organization, and it is being converted to an AI SaaS for pharma and life sciences.
Reason for leaving or desiring to change:	Seeking to get myself out of my comfort zone. Seeking new challenges that Malaysia and Deriv have. I'm really excited about my future endeavors with Deriv.
Name & Title of Your Supervisor:	Mr Ramu Chilakamari, Title: Associate Vice President
Permission to Contact?	No Tel/Email: +91-8008210389
WORK HISTORY 2 – YOUR PREVIOUS POSITION	
Employer:	Name: Location:
Your Position Title:	
Dates:	Start: End:
Type of Business:	
Salary:	Starting: Ending:
How did you find this job? (advert/headhunter/etc)	
What are the key challenges you've faced in this role and how did you overcome them?	
Share an example of a failure or error you made at this job and how did you address it.	
What did you like the	

most, and the least, about this job?	
What is the biggest impact you had at this organization?	
Reason for Leaving	
Name & Title of Your Supervisor:	
Permission to Contact?	Tel/Email:
WORK HISTORY 3 – YOUR PREVIOUS POSITION	
Employer:	Name: Location:
Your Position Title:	
Dates of Employment:	Start: End:
Type of Business:	
Salary:	Starting: Ending:
How did you find this job? (advert/headhunter/etc)	
What are the key challenges you've faced in this role and how did you overcome them?	
Share an example of a failure or error you made at this job and how did you address it.	
What did you like the most, and the least, about this job?	
What is the biggest impact you had at this organization?	

Reason for Leaving:	
Name & Title of Your Supervisor: Permission to Contact?	Tel/Email:

PLANS AND GOALS FOR THE FUTURE	
What are you looking for in your next job and how does this role at Deriv align with it?	<p>I'm eager to take on challenging roles and responsibilities that will help me expand my current knowledge. I'm also looking for a change of environment. While exploring Deriv's tech blog, several aspects caught my attention, and I genuinely feel that Deriv is the right place to apply, given its innovative projects, Deriv Bot, and vibrant culture.</p> <p>Along with the technical challenges, I have to mention that Malaysia has been one of my favorite countries in terms of infrastructure and beauty, and being able to work in such an environment with such great people is something I am really looking forward to. To conclude, Deriv's rich culture, its location, and its interesting AI vision cumulatively draw me toward it.</p>
How do you see your career developing in the next 5 to 10 years?	<p>I see my career growing directly proportional to the growth of AI in Deriv. In the next 5 years I see myself as leading a team to drive more and more projects to their success, building AI systems and agents which doesn't break and are impeccable.</p> <p>I also aspire to grow my skills in business and management, gaining a deeper understanding of business needs and combining that knowledge with my technical expertise in AI. By helping organizations adopt AI more rapidly and effectively, I envision myself playing a key role in driving this transformation while bridging the gap between technology and business strategy.</p>

INTELLECTUAL CHARACTERISTICS

Describe your ideal day at work.	<p>My ideal day at work starts with 10 minutes of meditation to remove the chaos out of my mind and make myself ready for the day. My favorite first thing to do is pull out my diary and pen and make a plan for the day. Just skim through my impact vs. urgency chart and possibly add any new items if there are any, or remove items if they are stale and nonurgent. I love to do this on raw paper rather than on any software. After that I communicate with my managers about what I am up to today and start working on the high-impact and highly urgent tasks. I like to take a few breaks in between.</p> <p>Post-lunch, I like to do 10 minutes of meditation again. Attend the daily standup and update my managers on the work items and backlogs. I ease myself onto less urgent and low-impact tasks afterward. I like to end my day with a nice little chit-chat with my colleagues and getting updates on their work items and having fun and meaningful conversations with them.</p>
What are a couple of the best and worst decisions you made in the past year?	<p>Best: One of the best decisions that I made in the past year was opting to come to Hyderabad for starting my professional career as an AI Engineer. I met a lot of amazing people at my workplace and learned a lot from different people. Not just on professional aspects, but even as a person, it helped me a lot.</p> <p>Worst: I believe 'worst' is a very strong word, and I won't like to mark any of my decisions from the past year as the worst. It has always been a learning experience after I make a bad call, and I always try to improve from my bad choices. The one bad decision that I can think of is discontinuing music. I believe practicing music helped me remain calmer, make me happier, and improve my focus.</p>
What skills have you acquired in the last several years?	<p>This I would like to answer in two parts: technical and from a mindset point of view. In the last several years, I learned Azure Cloud, software engineering principles, various programming languages, DevOps practices, version control and many more. I like to keep reading stuff and constantly widen my</p>

	<p>knowledge. I read about transformers, attention mechanisms, RAG engines, system design, etc. It has been such a joyful experience to get exposure to all these crazy technologies and get a chance to work on them.</p> <p>From a soft skills and mindset POV, I have learned that communication is a very important and very powerful skill. I also realized that no problem is too big to not get solved. Everything is achievable; the only hindrance to that is your mindset sometimes. Getting overwhelmed at starting is okay, but soon, like everything overwhelming, the nature of overwhelming also gets weaker, and the problem starts making so much sense and starts seeming so approachable.</p> <p>To conclude, I have realized the importance of leadership, communication, and the attitude of not giving up and have consistently tried to inculcate those things in my life in the last several years.</p>
What changes in your approach would you like to make in your next job?	I will try to maintain a healthy work-life balance.
What business or technical books have you read that are relevant to your job?	I like to read literature, articles, and tech blogs from time to time. I have read "Attention is all you need" by Vaswani et al. I keep reading Medium articles and tech blogs of Google and Amazon on their problems and their engineered solutions to solve those problems.
What are the most important lessons you have learned in your career?	Proper communication with the stakeholders and your supervisors is very important. Before jumping to anything, it is very crucial to discuss the ideas and approaches with the supervisors.
WORK HABITS	
What motivates you?	IMPACT. The impact of an action is what motivates me. I am all in if the contribution results in a change that benefits a large number of people.
Describe the pace at which you work – slow, moderate, or fast?	It depends on the task. I prefer to go slowly and give myself enough time to come up with something wild for projects that call for some degree of creativity and ideation. If the work at hand does not require any more thoughts and its

	<p>scope is already defined, I like to finish it ASAP. I like to keep myself occupied and working on ideas.</p> <p>To conclude, I like to take my time with tasks that require creativity; the rest of the tasks I like to finish on an urgent basis.</p>
After you leave the office, do you still think about work or do you relax to ensure a good work/life balance? Please explain.	<p>I try not to think about any work-related tasks after I leave the office, but I am bad at it. It is, in my opinion, very healthy to take a break from work for a while and then return to the same task later because it allows you to think more clearly and come up with better ideas. This is purely to avoid tunnel vision.</p> <p>I like to meditate to clear any brain fog and bring in fresh perspectives the day later. It always helps!</p>
How would you describe your work habits?	<p>I think a core part of my work habit is to communicate more often. I love discussions and ideations and brainstorming. I like to be updated on everything and keep everybody updated on everything that I am doing. When I am on my screen (programming), I prefer not to be disturbed for a while. Moreover, I would describe myself as the right balance between discipline and creative habits. I believe being too disciplined and monotonous kills your creativity.</p>
How organized are you; what, if anything, do you feel you could do to be better organized?	<p>I am an organized person. I like to keep my desk, closet, and home very clean and organized. I think these aspects reflect very well on my work habits too. I like to keep track of every update, communicate it with my managers, and keep everyone updated. I think this is something that I have inherited from my father.</p>
How much supervision do you want or need?	<p>If supervision can be quantized, then I think 20 percent supervision is sufficient for me. Just for regular checks and to reroute me to the correct paths in case I dwindle.</p>
PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS	
Describe a situation that didn't go as well as you planned. What would you have done differently?	<p>One time there was a project where I underestimated the time needed to complete a key task, which caused us to miss an internal deadline. I had planned my schedule, but unexpected challenges came up, and I didn't adjust quickly enough. Looking back, I would have communicated</p>

	the delay sooner and asked for support when I saw things slipping. Since then, I've learned to build more buffer time into my schedules and stay more proactive with updates to avoid such similar situations.
How do you handle yourself under stress and pressure?	I sit back and do a 10-minute meditation to calm myself down first and then look at my diary and write down things that are causing pressure and how to handle them one by one. Dividing the stressful tasks into subtasks and completing them one by one releases the pressure.
Describe yourself in terms of emotional control; what sorts of things irritate you the most, or get you down?	If somebody is bad at comprehending and a bad listener, it is really hard to deal with. I try my best from my end to convey my thoughts first, and if I fail, I ask my peers to jump in and help. I have realized that teamwork is great in such situations.
How many times have you "lost your cool" in the past couple of months?	Zero. I always invest my energy in more productive things, and losing cool is such a waste of energy in my humble opinion.
What sort of mood swings do you experience – how high are the highs, how low are the lows, and why?	<p>I have read books on stoicism, and I have read Kafka also. I believe that I have quite firm control over my emotions. I am always good at controlling the peak intensity of emotions.</p> <p>The media that I consumed growing up taught me well on how to get hold of your emotions and mood. Marcus Aurelius had this one very famous thing—he used to have a guy hired just to tell him, "You are just a man!" That helped Marcus stay grounded, not getting overjoyed by success and not getting depressed by failures. This has stayed with me for a long time, and I constantly remind myself of it whenever I experience success or failure.</p>
How have you changed in recent years?	I have become more self-aware in the recent years. I have become better at time management. I have also realized the importance of prioritizing health and fitness. A sound mind is a sound body.
What sorts of organizational changes have you found easiest	The changes that I found easiest to adjust were migrations from various development practices. Agile development adoption was a very good step,

and most difficult to accept?	<p>and it made a lot of things easier.</p> <p>The most difficult changes to adopt were that sometimes I was called on weekends to the office without much prior notice. I occasionally had to postpone plans in order to go to the office and complete some tasks. However, I later told the superiors that I would greatly benefit from knowing ahead of time.</p>
What are the biggest risks you have taken in recent years?	<p>I am a person who prefers taking calculated risks over any big risks. One major risk that I can remember is when I jumped into a project related to data science that I knew very little of. I backed myself and my ability to spontaneously figure out the solutions in situations. It went well at the end.</p> <p>It put me so out of my comfort zone, but in the end, it was very fruitful and a great learning experience.</p>
Describe a situation in which the pressure to compromise your integrity was the strongest.	<p>While selling a solution, the sales team used to overvalue it and exaggerate the work that was not even done yet. I never doubted the capabilities of the team to implement the solution, but yet somehow lying to the customer about a solution that is not yet ready seemed unethical and really did go against my values. Now how did I handle the situation? I simply did not say anything in front of the stakeholder and just agreed on everything as the management was saying. But later, I assertively put my point forward in front of management that this is something that I am really uncomfortable doing, selling something that is half ready and saying that it is fully ready.</p> <p>With that, management also agreed. Although they did not change the practice, I think the market somehow functions in that way only. But I refrain from doing such practices anywhere.</p>
INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS	
Who was the best leader or manager in all of your previous jobs? What is it about his or her behavior that made you enjoy working together?	<p>Mrs. Kasivajulla was undoubtedly the best manager in all of my previous jobs. Her calmness and polite behavior were very admirable. She never yelled at anyone, never saw her frustrated, and always asked for updates politely. Her way of communication and behavior is what I will try to</p>

	<p>carry forward in my professional life. She was also very considerate and good at load balancing.</p>
<p>Who was the best co-worker in all of your previous jobs? What is it about his or her behavior that made you enjoy working together?</p>	<p>My best co-worker was Mr. Azeem Ali. He was an all-rounder. Very humorous guy, very religious, very cheerful, and jolly. It was such a delight to work with him. Every time I was a bit tense, just having a cup of tea with him used to lift me up and make life 10 times better. He was such a good mix of joy, seriousness, and intellect.</p>
<p>Describe the most difficult person you've ever worked with.</p>	<p>The most difficult person to work with had the negative trait of not comprehending anything that was being told to him. Always used to criticize the work even before it started. Never appreciated and celebrated the ideas. I used to discuss ideas with him just to know about the potential flaws in them because he was so good at finding them and sometimes even creating them if they didn't exist.</p>
<p>How would you describe your level of assertiveness? Provide a specific example.</p>	<p>If I have to rate it on a scale of 1 to 10, I would rate my level of assertiveness as 8. I always like to point out things that I think and feel are right. I always take a stand for what is right. For example, once the entire team was being scolded for not providing updates and being sloppy at communication. I believe communication is a two-way process, and not a single person or a single side should be blamed for it. I diplomatically put my point forward that it is a cumulative responsibility of the management and the team and not a single side that should be blamed for this.</p> <p>But if I feel my personal belief at some point might be too radical or they might hurt somebody's sentiments, I always refrain from being assertive in such situations.</p>
<p><i>YOUR APPLICATION AT DERIV</i></p>	
<p>In as much detail as you can, explain how you believe Deriv.com's business works.</p>	<p>To the best of my knowledge, Deriv's business model lets people make bets on the delta of the stocks. A person can bet on a stock price going up, and if he is right, he gets some money, and if he loses, then his money is gone to other players who bet on the opposite outcome. Deriv just keeps a fee in between for people to make bets. This is also</p>

	known as CFD (Contract for Difference). Deriv also has binary options where the traders can answer in yes/no only and make their bets on those questions to make some money.
What actions would you take in the first week, should you join our organization?	Getting familiar with the management and my responsibilities. Try to know the team better and the work they have been doing. Exchanging knowledge and experiences.
What questions do you have about the company or the job you are applying for?	I have lots of questions, such as what is the tech stack that the company uses? What cloud services? What is going to be my role and responsibility? How is the company culture? How much does the company value the health and fitness of the employees?
<i>[For relocation candidates only]</i> What experience do you have (if any) with living and working abroad? What problems do you foresee?	I have no experience working abroad. There are no problems but only excitement that I am able to foresee.
<i>[For relocation candidates only]</i> How many dependents (spouse, children) would relocate with you?	None.

INCLUSIVITY AT DERIV <i>At Deriv, we are dedicated to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace. We believe in offering equal opportunities for all candidates and welcome individuals with special needs to apply</i>	
Do you have any specific conditions (disability/health issues) requiring adjustments during the recruitment process, or would you require special adjustments if offered a job?	

(This information is voluntary and will be used solely to provide the necessary support)	
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MANAGEMENT <i>(to be completed by candidates for managerial/team-lead roles only)</i>	
How would you describe your management philosophy and style?	
Do you believe a manager should be hands-on or hands-off?	
What would your subordinates say are your strengths and shortcomings as a manager?	
In what ways would you modify your approach in dealing with work associates?	
Please write a paragraph about one person who reports to you in your most recent job, indicating his or her strengths, shortcomings, and overall work performance.	