ABOUT ME

Born in Portola Valley, CA in the heart of Silicon Valley, I've always been interested in the world of start-ups and technology. I'm currently a third year computer science at Northeastern University with experience in Java, HTML, CSS, PHP, Python, C++, C, SQL, and more. I'm interested in both front and back end software development with a slight preference for front end. I have some experience building websites and applications in a professional setting. I'm a hard worker, I'm persistent, creative and passionate. I'm interested in learning more about machine learning, artificial intelligence, block chain, and algorithmic trading. When I can, I try to go rock climbing / hiking up in Maine/New Hampshire while at school or in the Rockies when back in California. In a co-op/internship, I'm looking for a company with a strong community where I can work as a team member to either help build a product that clients or customers will use or develop an underlying tool that helps protect or improve the company. I'm pretty open to trying new things, and I'm still trying to determine what specific area I'd like to focus on for my career.

1. What accomplishments are you most proud of and why?

   Ever since high school I've been a huge cryptocurrency supporter, and I've recently started a side project that automatically trades cryptocurrency based on certain indicators. So far in my computer science career, outside of work and school, this has been my first real project. I'm proud of it because it feels great knowing that I've finally learned enough to build programs on my own and be self-sufficient. I'm excited to learn more as a result of the progress I've made. Another accomplishment I'm proud of is the completion of a course I did with an organization called NOLS. In the next question, I explain why.

2. What's the most defining moment of your life so far? Why?

   Back in my sophomore year of high school I signed up for a mountaineering exhibition with a program called NOLS. I was to travel and climb throughout the wind river range for a month during the summer. The course served as a transformative experience that push my childhood ambitions aside in place of a new motivation and set of goals. Climbing mountains taught me that hard work and a tolerance for adversity can

allow you to reach places that you never thought would be possible. I've always felt like this was when I really entered adulthood.

3. What motivates you to work hard in school? What will motivate you to work hard on Co-op?

   Back in high school, I found myself struggling to stay motivated in certain classes. I would still finish my work because I had the discipline and means to do so, but I can't say I always enjoyed it. When I started college, this changed. At first, I was uncertain what major I wanted to be so I jumped around from class to class testing the waters. After experimenting with a number of different subjects ranging from physics to business, I realized that there was only one subject that felt rewarding to me and that was computer science. I remember in my first CS class, I found myself looking for additional homework online after finishing every assignment. The way I felt after finishing a difficult problem set was nothing like what I had experienced in different subjects. It is one of a select few majors that allows you to build something and see the result right in front of you. So what motivates me to work hard in school? The subject itself. I love computer science, and work not because I have to, but because I want to.

4. How would your best friend describe you?

   Loyal, motivated, caring, down to earth, good listener, and a problem solver.

5. What is one thing you would like to me to know about you?

   While working at my last internship this summer (not a coop), one of my responsibilities was to build a website from the ground up, that allowed the company's clients to see statistics about their account and its usage. My first major problem was that I had never developed a website before, so I had to learn everything before I could even get started. In about three weeks, I taught myself HTML, CSS, PHP, JS, and more without any guidance and built a nearly complete website. I'd like to think that to some degree this is evidence that I'm a quick learner, but more importantly it shows that I'm passionate about what I do. I spent nearly all of my time working on this project, and I'm proud of what I accomplished in the amount of time I had. So, I'd like you, the reader, to know

6. Why did you choose this field of study, computer/information science?

Computer science resonates with me more than any other field of study for a couple reasons, but mainly because the work itself is both challenging and incredibly rewarding. There's nothing like seeing the outcome of your sweat and tears run right in front of you, or seeing all of your tests pass with flying colors. Coming up with an algorithm that solves a unique problem is something that most areas of work don't encounter until much farther in their career. Yet, in computer science it's something that we deal with on a daily basis beginning at the onset of our education. In computer science, you learn how to solve problems and build a variety of programs that could aid, not only your own, but thousands of people's lives, and that's an incredible thing.

7. Share one strength and one area for improvement?

   I'm creative and a hard worker, combined these two traits will hopefully allow me to excel both in the work place and outside on my own. With that being said, my biggest weakness is almost certainly that I jump into things too quickly. I often find myself coding before I've sufficiently thought through what I need to do, and this puts me back a bit. I've been working on improving this by forcing myself to write out what I need to do before I solve a problem. This not only helps me think through the steps involved, but also allows me to improve the function or design on the first go-around.

8. Why should an employer hire you?

   I'm confident in my technical ability, which is great, but I'm still learning. An employer should really hire me for two reasons:

   > One, because I'm a very social guy, and can usually connect with people on a more personal level. Within a team environment I believe I would excel at communicating technical issues and building up friendly relationships with my co-workers.

   > Two, I'm persistent. When encountering a problem my first instinct is to try harder. I will not stop until I've found a solution, even if that means sacrificing other responsibilities, as long as they are not as significant.

9. Tell me a time that you failed at something or made a mistake, what did you learn from that and how did you apply this learning going forward?

My biggest mistake has been putting too much of my time, effort, and focus on one particular activity or person. This has happened in various environments, but there was one specific event that really knocked me off track for a little while. In my freshman year, I dated a girl that I devoted too much of my time to, and in the process I neglected my friends, family, school work, and health. Ultimately, the lesson was that a balance between socialization, work, and time to yourself is essential to my happiness and success. I've applied this to almost every area of my life and now make sure to stay well rounded. I'm a part of both social and technical clubs, and manage my time significantly better than I did before.

10. What do you expect to learn and/or experience on your co-op assignment(s)?

On an environmental level, I'd hope to come out of my first co-op with some real teamwork experience. Up until this point, I've usually been on my own or with a partner which has come with its own lessons, but now it's time for me to learn what it's like to work in a more structured environment. This last summer, I worked for a small startup in San Francisco that allowed me to learn more about what it's like to work in a professional setting. However, I was forced to communicate remotely with most of my co-workers, which isn't the experience I'm looking for with my co-op. On a technical level, I'm interested in both front end and back end development. I'd love to continue working with HTML, CSS, PHP and JS, and would like to learn more about tools such as Angular.js Node.js, jQuery and more. Then on the back end, I'd like to continue working with Java, Python, and C/C++ and really push my object oriented programming skills forward.

11. Describe a time when you solved a major problem as part of a team.

During my sophomore year, during the mountaineering exhibition I mentioned earlier, one of the learning goals for the trip was to learn how to work as a team. Every day we would split up into teams of four and have someone lead the group to our destination. The leader of the group would rotate daily between the group members, and on my day we encountered a slight dilemma. At around 12pm, we had just hiked up 2000 feet onto a saddle between two peaks, Sentinel and Turret. Exhausted, we threw down our gear and relaxed for a couple minutes on the glacial ice. Off in the distance, an afternoon thunderstorm boomed and quickly moved its way towards us. Normally this wouldn't be an issue, aside from the

heavy rain, but at 10,000 feet, we were extremely vulnerable. Since it was my day as the leader, I was in charge, and I quickly got everyone back on their feet. We started heading down the back side of the saddle, and found ourselves stuck between a crevasse and the saddle's peak. Without having lost much elevation, our position was still incredibly dangerous, so I came up with a solution. Our group had two ropes, so I told another group member to pair up and tie in with someone, while I tied in with another kid. Two of us were to stay in self arrest and serve as anchors as the other two of us walked along the edge of the crevasse and prod the ground for any snow bridges. In a couple minutes we found one, and managed to safely go down the saddle into a large glacial valley. In hindsight, it may not have been the safest way to go about making our way down, but I feel like it says a lot about my ability to communicate well with team members and come up with a solution under stress.