Chris Theisen

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am applying for the Software Engineering role for the Pivotal Labs team posted on your careers site. I'm looking for new opportunities after earning my Masters in Computer Science from North Carolina State University here in Raleigh. Your position calls for someone with not only a software engineering background, but also the desire and motivation to make developing software faster, more effective, and more efficient. Based on my work history and my PhD research into software engineering and software security concepts, I think I'm an excellent fit for your Labs team.

Before returning to academia to pursue graduate studies at NCSU, I spent three years as a software engineer at Northrop Grumman and as an independent consultant in my home state of Ohio. My current research, performed at NCSU and at Microsoft Research UK, focuses on using data science principles to determine what code in software systems contains reachable security vulnerabilities. My approach, called Risk Based Attack Surface (RBAS), can be used by security teams to prioritize efforts to locate insecure code. I've received awards and recognition for my research, including:

- An article about my research in The Register, a UK-based tech news site: "Redmond boffins' infosec trick will help ship better code, faster."
  (http://www.theregister.co.uk/2015/03/17/redmond_boffins_infosec_trick_will_ship_better_code_faster/)
- An invited book chapter about my work in "Perspectives on Data Science for Software Engineering" (Available July 2016)
  (https://www.amazon.com/Perspectives-Data-Science-Software-Engineering/dp/0128042060)
- 1st place in the graduate level Student Research Competition (SRC) at the ACM Foundations of Software Engineering Conference in 2015 (FSE 2015), and
  (https://raw.githubusercontent.com/theisencr/theisencr.github.io/master/assets/FSE-SRC_2015.jpg)
- 3rd place in the ACM SRC Grand Finals, which included all of the winners of all ACM SRC's. Both competitions were judged on research quality, presentation quality, and communication skills.
  (http://src.acm.org/)

Based on my background, I think I'm a great fit for the role. There's more about me on my personal site, which you can find in the header. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions you might have about my interests, my skills, or my work experience. I'm looking forward to hearing back; let's do great things together!

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