

Gavin Stark

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to recommend Edmund Goodman for any potential internship or similar offering over the summer. I have known Edmund for nearly ten years, since he is about the same age as my elder son and they have been friends since meeting.

Edmund has always impressed me with his maturity and general intelligence, but particularly in his passion and follow-through for various sciences, especially computing. I have on many occasions thrown a somewhat off-the-wall question or problem at him, only to find later that he has taken that and dug into it and will discuss it in depth at a later meeting. On top of this he has attacked the Advent of Code for the last two years; this is a challenging set of programming tasks that require some real problem analysis and decent approaches to algorithms, and completing it (as Edmund has) is a testament to staying power and programming ability.

I appreciate that taking somebody on for a summer when they are pre-University is not common; my concerns about doing so are usually about maturity and the amount of training required to get anything useful done. Occasionally, though, there are rough gems who have the maturity and self-motivation to be practically useful, without being a burden, and whose polishing is of long term benefit to both sides. I am sure Edmund is such a gem.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Gavin Stark

*Chief Silicon Architect, Netronome Systems, and Visiting Industrial Fellow, Cambridge University Computer Laboratory*