Technology has always amazed me. Only a few decades ago, digital technology had only a few features, and solely the rich could access it. Long-distance communication was limited, internet access was demanding, and video games were expensive. In less than 100 years, technology made the impossible possible, stunning people worldwide. Technology has been expanding continuously, and before we realize it, this world would be what yesterday people call fiction. In a world with constantly advancing technology, my interest led to a motivation to partake in computer science and other technical fields of study.

Nonetheless, before it was my dream to be a part of future technology, I was already interested in problem-solving and algorithms. Due to its need for critical thinking, not many people seem to enjoy doing math. However, despite its intricate reputation, I was passionate about excelling at math and even dug deeper by joining well-known math competitions regularly. Since the 2nd grade, I have participated in the Kangaroo Math Contest, expanding my competition pool as I got exposed to more prestigious competitions, such as SASMO and SEAMO. Even though the results aren’t as good as they are now, winning only silver or bronze awards, I never gave up on progress. I never stopped learning, always chasing the gold medal. Nothing could steal my dreams from me, and by the middle of 9th grade, I had garnered plenty of competition rewards. Currently, I am preparing for SEAMO 2022 and my national mathematics competition. Though winning may not be easy, I am determined to thrive in all the difficulties.

However, in March of 2020, everything took a halt as COVID-19 cases rose in Indonesia. Just like most public activities, schools and math competitions became online. As a result, there were fewer school lessons and math olympiads as teachers had trouble adapting to online education. Such a gap led me to boredom with a lot of free time on my hands, which led me to discover a new passion: computer science. That way, I could contribute to the future world, innovating and creating life-changing software for future generations.

Although I have always enjoyed technology products, I have never dived into its sciences. I had never learned how to create websites nor even learned how to code. As a result of my free time, the pandemic opened my eyes to explore deeper into technology’s sciences, whether it is AI, web and game development, or software engineering. Because of my interest, I took coding lessons for different programming languages, such as Python and C#, and learned many other languages through youtube, boot camps, and various educational websites. Furthermore, I deepened my understanding and problem-solving skills through Hackerrank, which I ground for fun during my leisure time.

After gaining some knowledge and confidence, I tried to create websites and participate in hackathons. Though I did not place in the top three in my first hackathon, it gave me a ton of experience and soft skills necessary for my career and academic future: leadership, team construction, time management, web development, and a sleepless night of coding. Developing a website was fun and challenging because it forced me to apply my HTML, CSS, and Javascript knowledge into practice. Web development also increased my UI/UX design skills, which is crucial for front-end web development. Though I do not take pride in my design capabilities, some friends like the design, especially the home page. Currently, I am working on a web app called Ponder, which aims to spread water awareness and reduce freshwater consumption through games and challenges. Ponder is the most prominent website I have created, and I hope to get it done before I enter my next academic stage.

As a student passionate about computer science and technology, I would continue to study hard to provide the best I can offer for future innovations. I hope my skills and knowledge will lead us closer to eudaimonia (human flourishing).