Name of Speaker: Jared Hattaway

Title of Lecture: Technology Careers at Goldman Sachs

Date of Lecture: 10/3/2013

Introduction

Jared Hattaway, came to present to us from Goldman Sachs. He is a graduate of UVU and with his degree worked at a start up called iBAHN. While working with iBAHN, Jared traveled the globe setting up IP based technology solutions for those in the hospitality industry. In 2011 he moved to Goldman Sachs and is currently a systems engineering vice president.

Summary

This lecture started out with a basic introduction into Goldman Sachs, and then quickly turned into a recruiting pitch with the conclusion to apply for the internship program. When he began he asked if we knew what Goldman Sachs did as a business. He wanted to make sure knew that it was a financial institution rather than a department store.

Other big things that were promoted about the company pertained to community involvement. They promote their 10,000 program, which includes sponsoring 10,000 women and 10,000 new businesses He then went on to tell us about the size of the business.

Currently, Goldman Sachs operates in 32 countries with 59 offices and 150 nationalities. They employ roughly 32,000 employees worldwide, and of those 32,000 one quarter or 8,000 of them work in technology. This is the largest division of the company. They support nearly 47,000 CPU’s and approximately 50,000 telephones.

As far as software, he said they are supporting over 400,000,000 (four hundred million) lines of code. They write in almost all major languages, these include: Java, C++, Python, Redhat, Hadoop, and MongoDB. They use Linux to support their machines which are 98% virtual.

He made the point that when considering all of this technology that one must consider the costs of these technologies to the benefits of what they provide. Along the same lines he said you have to also consider a buy versus build mindset. Jared said that there are many things that they could build but it is smarter to buy, as well as they could buy many technologies, but they may not need all of what something offers and thus it would be cheaper to build it.

At the end of his presentation he made sure to tell us how great it was to work for Goldman Sachs and about their internship and NAPA program. In other words he encouraged us to apply for these opportunities and showed that the company is always rated very highly as a company to work for.

Reflection

The overall feeling that I had from the presentation is that it was a recruiting opportunity for Goldman Sachs. He spent a lot of time talking at the end about the NAPA program and going out to New York and learning the culture and values of the company. To know that a company does this is actually quite impressive. The statistics or articles from the magazines supporting how good of a company Goldman Sachs is, made me think that it would be a great place to work.

The information about the summer internship program is very attractive. It is exciting to know that possibilities to work on things that will be put into production for such a large company as an intern are available. I appreciated the fact that he went into discussing what they look for when they interview and review applicants for their positions.

One of the other things that I took away from the lecture that wasn’t necessarily implicit was how much opportunity and need there was for technology in company like Goldman Sachs. When he said that they support over 400 million lines of code, I realized that not only do they have to maintain all of that, but someone had to write it.

I learned about what “Big Data” is. This doesn’t mean that I didn’t understand the concept but now what the term meant. To me, this simple idea reflects a bigger and more important concept which is the concept of innovation. He told us how they were some of the first to start using virtual machines and developing software to be able to do that. It is good to know that they are still evolving and still using new techniques, ideas and concepts to promote and grow their business.

Conclusion

The speaker gave a good presentation about what Goldman Sachs does and how “they are a technology firm” in the financial business market place. Jared represented his company well and made a good case for why this would be a great company to work for.