Name of Speaker: Dave Shrack, Rodger Mickelsen, and Jason Smith

Title of Lecture: How to become better working Professionals in the field

Date of Lecture: 10/17/13

Introduction

There were three speakers who presented from Melaleuca Inc. The corporate head quarters are in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The main speaker was Jason Smith, the manager of mobile software development. He spent 20 years at Verizon as an IT director. He introduced the other speakers, who are Rodger Mickelsen, Manager of Internal applications Development, and Jason Smith, Manager of Mobile software development. He also introduced the topic of the lecture, which consisted of what those three managers look for when interviewing and hiring candidates for Melaleuca.

Summary

After the introduction of the lecture, Jason spent a little time telling us about Melaleuca. Currently, the company is doing over One Billion Dollars is annual revenue. They are in 16 countries, and support offices in 11 of those countries. They fund all of their operations with cash which shows they are a debt free company. Because, they have two thirds of their orders placed via mobile devices and on the web, having a strong technology group is critical to their success. He then finished the lecture by telling is what was trendy or what is currently important to IT professions.

Melaleuca is continuing to grow, and thus they are focusing on finding the right people to support their technologies and operations. The next portion of the lecture was then presented by Rodger, and he focused on answering the question, “What other skills do you need to be Successful?” He presented a slide that had several points on it. He followed that up with some things not on the slide like asking if the people in the room knew what “Big Data” was, did we know how to manipulate it in SQL. Then he asked if anyone had built a mobile app, and if they had what was it. He pointed out that the world is going mobile and that is going to be a big deal to know how to build things that apply to mobile devices. One of the last thing he talked about that was on the slides was the idea of showing some type of achievement. In other words asking what have we been working on, and what are we working on now.

Next we heard from David, the software development director. He spoke to us from the perspective of the company and what they are thinking about regarding the future of IT. He did follow the content on his site pretty well. He talked about the concept of social engineering. In other words, how companies are using social media websites to help direct their business. The example he gave was of an upset customer who was posting negative things, and allowing a representative to reach out to that individual to correct the situation.

Reflection

This presentation was well put together and well thought out. The material that they presented was relevant and important. I particularly like that they focused the presentation to a younger college student who needs direction trying to navigate what is pertinent to companies now. I appreciated their presentation and agreed with what they were trying to convey to the students.

Some of the things that I liked in particular was the advice of what skills we need to develop to be successful. I liked that he talked about some of the “soft” skills that need to be developed in order to successful as a programmer. It was interesting that the concept of Big Data was brought up again twice in this lecture as something important to understand as well as be proficient in.

Another one of the insights that he made was that resounded with me was how do I show evidence of achievement. I asked myself, “What was different about me?” As I go through the UVU educational process, even though I may learn differently, we are all learning the same concepts, thus; how do I differentiate myself. He spoke about mobile app, which they don’t teach much of here, and that would be a good opportunity.

The next topic following the demonstration of achievement was that of what is the cost / benefit of the person fulfilling the job. I thought that was very appropriate, because if you only cost a company money and don’t bring any value, then you’re no better than anyone else. Certainly there would be people better than you.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the way they presented the material was great. They broke up the lecture by having different people present different topics. The concepts the presented were relevant, and informative to the current situation.