

**SAM PHIPPS**

Software Engineer

(320) 428-1559

samuel.v.phipps@gmail.com

<https://github.com/Samuelyvhipps>

Dear Hiring Manager,

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 I put a nail through my finger while building a house. This event began a process of reflection on my goals, my experiences, and what I want my career to look like. To figure this out I had to answer a few questions. First, what are my strengths, and second, what do I value in work? Both of the answers to these questions align with a software engineering career, and here's how.

My strengths stem from multiple defining experiences in my career. As an officer in the U.S. Army I learned how to work as a team leader and member. My responsibilities varied, from managing a \$32 million government contract, to supervising logistics movements across Europe. We were successful, and that was not because of individuals, but because of the group and the varied experiences and beliefs each person contributed. Our team consisted of people from many nations, many economic backgrounds, and from many different belief systems. This diversity was a vital part of our success and a huge source of learning for me. I learned patience, communication, and how to learn from others. These lessons will help me excel as an engineer, and while it can be frustrating when the team has merge conflicts, it is also extremely rewarding when the final application is deployable.

Secondly, I value learning and I believe mistakes(i.e. nail + finger) and failures are one of the best ways to learn. Recently, my supervisor and I had to design and build a custom roof from scratch. We kept trying, and we kept failing. While we eventually succeeded, a majority of the learning happened because of the failures. The experience was exceptionally fun and remains one of my favorite days as a carpenter. This skill will directly apply to my career as a software engineer as I know there will be bugs and challenges that don't have an easy solution, but I also know I will learn the most from these situations.

I found myself as a software engineer through an accident, but I am so glad that I did. It is a career that uses my strengths while also promising continued learning. In addition to my above values, my continued operating philosophy as both a leader and a problem solver has been to follow the KISS (keep it simple silly) framework. This includes code, maintainable code is understandable, not fancy. This is vital to an organization as it allows anyone to take over or assist in a project without needing a significant amount of support. Chewy's keep it simple principle will make me an excellent fit on the engineering team and allow me to thrive. You can find my portfolio at <https://github.com/Samuelyvhipps>. I am available to talk Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday between 12:00 and 2:00pm central time. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,  
Sam Phipps

