# Why did I choose liquid galaxy over the other organisations?

I think the one time, I actually saw a liquid galaxy was in the Aquarium of the Pacific during my trip to the United States, while the technology obviously wowed me, I didn’t know what it was called or any specifications. Like any other pre-adolescent teen, I figured that it was some high-tech stuff that would be out of my comprehension. So, when I was viewing the tasks for liquid galaxy, I think somewhere deep down, the tasks resonated with that one experience of seeing a liquid galaxy and curiosity drove me to pick liquid galaxy as the company that I would be working on.

The second reason why I chose liquid galaxy is that I knew nothing about mapping or ubuntu, the operating system that liquid galaxy runs on. While I knew something or the other about the rest of the organisations, my unbelievable lack of knowledge about this area made me want to know more about it. Sure enough, the trip so far has been eventful, I have sideloaded ubuntu (which after 10 reinstallation tries still doesn’t work) on my windows system, learnt a lot about Convolutional Neural Networks, about scripting languages and python. I entered this competition with a basic knowledge of java and I will definitely leave with a lot more. My favourite thing from the competition so far is that there was no shortage of errors made by me. I am personally someone who never gives up and I believe that out of the hundreds of permutations and combinations available for each program that you write, one of them must be correct. While finding the one possibility is tough and time consuming, it sure is worth seeing code that you wrote work. This is how I learnt how to run python scripts in a jupyter notebook framework as to run it on google Collab (a place which offers a GPU, something which my laptop is critically deficient of.)

This want and need to discover new things and broaden my horizon is why I have tried to pick the toughest tasks according to me. In fact, I remember thinking about doing a POI task, however the google doc said “easy task” which is when I decided to do something else. And it sure is going against this spirit, to take my first beginner task in this form. While, this spirit may seem unreasonable to many, it makes me who I am 😊

# What I think about community involvement

I firmly believe that open source is definitely the best way to go whether that is about open source research, open source books or open source programs. It saves a lot of resources and fosters innovation. Especially in the 21st century, I think that we’ve been successful in building a great open source community, which is collaborative and helps those who are new to it. My knowledge of open source comes from this MUN that I had participated in which had open source as the topic. It was a great learning experience from me and I won amongst 180 other participants. I have made a couple of GitHub repos of my own with some code that I once wrote to satisfy my requirement. I figured that if it helped me then it could help many more.

# What I think about the mentors

If I had to describe them in one word then I would say that they’ve been really supportive. I’ve been down with dengue for most of the competition, because of which sometimes my mental mood hasn’t been pleasant. Despite this, the mentors have tolerated me and helped me complete the tasks

Another thing that I found great about them is that the feedback that they give is not posed as instructions but is instead posed as a guide. They’re not telling us what to do and are instead guiding us about how to think. This method of giving feedback, allows a participant to think for himself rather than following a set of scripted instructions.

## What I am willing to do for the project

I think that If I would have the opportunity to help liquid galaxy with any thing that is within my capacity, then I would most definitely like to do it even if it’s after the contest ends. I think that I would like to continue on this journey that I’ve embarked on to understand mapping and its various applications.

That being said I would like to add that the tasks in this contest could be of a higher difficulty which engage higher order thinking skills a bit more. However, I have still thoroughly enjoyed the tasks that I have completed until now

Also, if you receive the funding you should look towards opening a liquid galaxy in a developing country. This would make education more interactive for kids, teach them about open source at a grassroots level and engage their curious minds. Maybe, instead a cheaper alternative would be to allow the liquid galaxy core to install itself on windows or a mac system. This would expand the number of people who are able to engage with the device. A liquid galaxy could be the next smartboard. The possibilities of the things that a person can do with the setup is endless

Thanking you and looking forward to complete many more tasks

Regards,

Jon\_snow