I am writing this letter to provide a character reference for Jeff Walley. I am a video game programmer by trade, so my ears perked up when Jeff announced that he was returning to school to study Computer Science. I have enjoyed watching his skills grow over the past few years—seeing the completed projects become more sophisticated, him asking better—and tougher!—questions, and so on. Though I have not worked with Jeff as an engineer, I think he’s ready. Transitioning to any new code project inevitably involves some ramping up, but he epitomizes Joel Spolsky’s concept of “smart and gets things done” so no worries there.

Regarding his character, I don’t see how you would have any issues with Jeff. His return to school demonstrates a work ethic and an ability to learn complex skills quickly. I have always known him to be aware of and accommodating to the sensibilities of those around him, so I suspect he would be successful when collaborating with co-workers. Basically, he acts like a normal person (well, mostly).

--James Stewart

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