2190 Self Reflection

This school year my knowledge has grown extensively with respect to how I anticipate spending my career. One thing in particular that stood out to me that I learned about myself is that research is very appealing to me. Coming in to the school year, I did not see myself finding any particular interests in research, however, after the numerous talks by professors and their research endeavors, I found that the cutting edge ideas they are working on are truly very exciting. In particular, I thought that the student from Professor Whitehouse’s research group who is working on building smart houses and households was extremely enlightening.

One possible career path that I could see myself going on is to work at a large technology corporation as a software developer. I am going to get a taste of that this summer, so I will be able to see how much I enjoy that sort of work. I anticipate that some of the positives to working in such environments include: good pay, job stability, and room for promotion. I value very highly all of these qualities. However, there are certainly some negative aspects. For example, corporate culture/politics, poor management, not feeling like you’re working on cutting edge technology. These are only a few of the potential pros and cons, but they are the ones that I value the most.

A second possible career path is working in a startup/small business environment. This could be a good fit for me because of the fast paced environment that it entails. Additionally, you have the ability to work in a variety of different roles as there aren’t as many employees. Contrasting with a larger company, the startup option does not have nearly as much stability in terms of pay or job security. However, it certainly provides the feeling that you are working on cutting edge technology and most likely does not have as much stringency in terms of corporate politics/red tape. I have yet to experience anything like this, but I hope to at least be able to try it at some point.

In order to move forward in my career, the first step I need to take is to do well during my internship this summer. In addition to doing well in terms of performance, I hope to be able to meet a number of students and other professionals in order to expand my network. Additionally, it will help me learn a lot about practical applications to computer science in the real world.