Interview HRS= 82 [1 month] Summary: [Ram Cheruki]

March 16, 2021

As part of my curriculum through Springboard, I decided to interview Ram Cheruki. Ram Cheruki is a data engineer at the BNY Melon. Cheruki is a family friend, who I spoke to given his expertise in Hadoop, building data infrastructure, and working with other data scientists. It was my first informational interviews, so I did not have a targeted focus for the discussion.

My conversation with Cheruki lasted forty minutes. We spoke a little bit about his company, BNY Melon, which employs 15,000 people, and has various silos that employees work in. When I asked about how data science worked at BNY Melon, he explained that, there is both a data science miniature silo, and there are often data scientists attached to a silo. I gave Cheruki background on what I had learned through Springboard and how I could position myself as a candidate for data science roles in the industry, and Cheruki suggested that I brush up on some of my tech skills and avail of industry resources such as KDnuggets, which is a hub for data scientists that is industry agnostic, but provides a centralized affiliation source for statisticians, data engineers, and their managers for staying aware of industry topics.

His biggest piece of advice was to knock on as many doors as I can: it’s a bit like college applications since there is so much luck and chance involved. They are building a class of data scientists so want to build a diverse pool. I enjoyed the organic feeling around the conversation, and I felt comfortable bouncing from different topics to take Cheruki’s advice. He said he would be happy to have a follow-up conversation as well. I will plan on following up on KDnuggets so that it reinforces what I know about the industry.