December 31, 2016

Hi there! My name is Tony. I am currently a Junior at Stanford University majoring in Computer Science. Having run my own startup and interned at Dropbox and Slack, I bring to Basecamp significant experience with, and a passion for, managing servers, scaling websites, and resolving systems issues. In a word or three, I love solving hard and meaningful technical problems while also learning, teaching, and challenging myself and others along the way (… all while leaving a little trail of emoji wherever I go 👣😁).

I've actually known about Basecamp for many years. When I started my own business, Overcast Network, at age 14, we used Basecamp to stay organized. It would be awesome to be a part of the 2017 Basecamp summer internship program because, to start, I continue to admire Basecamp's culture. From strongly encouraging 40-hour-maximum work weeks to allowing people to work from where they are most comfortable and happy, I continue to be impressed by Basecamp's commitment to the wellbeing of its employees. I highly value relationships and health; without each, we're sunk.

What would I like to do at Basecamp? I'm super interested in working with the Operations team because of my passion for scaling reliable services. The Operations team, at around seven people, is the perfect size. I thrive in and contribute best to small teams, and absolutely love getting to know every team member! I am also super thrilled about having a mentor at Basecamp. When I was an intern at Slack and Dropbox, I received fantastic guidance from my mentors. They cared about my project and progress, and always prioritized my personal wellbeing. To this day, I cherish our relationships and am grateful for the learning experiences we shared. I can't wait to have similar relationships at Basecamp!

Where did my passion for operations come from? In a word, Overcast. When I was a sophomore in high school I co-founded, with a friend, a Minecraft server company called Overcast Network. Together, we monitored and managed 20 Ubuntu dedicated servers using Puppet; scaled over 100 Java game servers to support over 100,000 unique players every week; developed a Rails website which served 15MM page views per month; and managed a MongoDB database with over one billion documents. We maintained one of the largest open source presences in the Minecraft server community which helped us find new developers while also giving back (check out our GitHub at https://github.com/OvercastNetwork). Recently, we sold Overcast so we could shift our focus to new projects and opportunities.

Since starting at Stanford I've had two fantastic internships: the first summer at Dropbox and second at Slack. At Dropbox I was on the Site Reliability Engineering team (about 50 people). During my time at Dropbox I created visibility into Dropbox's performance and availability from a client-side perspective, and used new insights to fix previously unseen issues; reimagined how Dropbox stores, deploys, and distributes static content to users; and created a new system for storing, distributing, and renewing SSL certificates. After my internship ended, Dropbox liked me so much (yay!) they then hired me as a part-time contractor for the following school year. At Slack I helped transition metric infrastructure from Librato to Graphite; deployed HAProxy to load balance over 3MM concurrent WebSocket connections; and streamlined tooling used to provision EC2 instances, create AMIs, and manage CloudFront DNS. At both companies I grew significantly as a human and computer scientist! I have endless appreciation for my supportive, smart, and caring mentors and colleagues.

What else can I say? Just that I'm super excited about the opportunity to intern at Basecamp this summer! 🤓