PD19 – Assignment 2 - Work Term Mission

# Your Employer

Recall the characteristics of your current or potential employer that you identified in a previous module. If you were thinking about an employer you would like to work for in the future, continue to do so as you can still develop your skills in a forward-looking manner.

Since there are so many kinds of organizations to work for, co-op will be an excellent way for you to “try them on.” Big, small, public, private – they all have something unique to offer.

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| *What is the name of the company or organisation you are describing?* | Epson Canada |
| *Are you currently employed there?* | Yes |

Considering the different characteristics of your selected employer, describe what you would like to determine about your professional success and enjoyment within this environment, focusing on specific characteristics. For example, “I want to see if I like working in a big public-sector company.” Describe what specific steps you will take to make this determination by the end of the term. If you are not currently employed, describe steps you can still take to gain insight into that employer. Based on your experiences or preferences so far, what do you predict will be the outcome?

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| What characteristics do you want to learn about?  I want to learn about the general workflow and goals of a larger tech company. In the future, I see myself working in the software industry quite a bit, and currently I am getting a taste of how a company such as Epson functions to develop products. I also want to see if I like working in the software field in general or if I should take a step back to see if another sector of engineering is right for me.  What specific steps will you take?  I am planning to join projects that will eventually make it to production. Currently, there are codes that require to be debugged that are already in production, which give an amazing understanding of how the products consumers use everyday are made. I feel like I am already learning a lot from my job and the projects that I am currently working on as well as talking to my coworkers have are giving me a good idea of the software industry.  What do you predict will be the outcome?  I think I will enjoy the software industry. While some parts of the companies are extremely unorganized, I feel like it is a matter of getting used to the workflow as it was for high school to university. I enjoy working with other developpers on projects, but I feel that working in a large company can often feel very slow and unrewarding. The scripts that I work on may not see production and I feel that my efforts are not being appreciated. However, I have yet to experience smaller companies where these concerns may be addressed. |

# Your Job

Recall the aspects of your current or potential job that you identified in a previous module. If you were thinking about a job you would like to have in the future, continue to do so as you can still develop your skills in a forward-looking manner.

Considering the different aspects of your job, describe what you would like to determine about your professional success and enjoyment within this role, focusing on specific aspects. For example, “I want to see if I like doing many different small projects as an Applications Engineer instead of one big project.” Describe what specific steps you will take to make this determination by the end of the term. If you are not currently employed, describe steps you can still take to gain insight into that job. Based on your experiences or preferences so far, what do you predict will be the outcome?

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| What aspects do you want to learn about?  I want to work on a large project that will see commercial use or production. I want to contribute towards a larger cause.  What specific steps will you take?  Currently, I am already assigned to a small part in a larger project. I want to finish the task properly and efficiently so that I can be assigned more work and understand more of the process.  What do you predict will be the outcome?  I believe that I will gain great self management skills from this as rarely does my manager/boss check in on me. I am required to keep myself busy with tasks that I must find. Additionally, communication and collaboration skills will be gained by developing with my coworkers is crucial to talk effectively. |

# Strengths

Using the answers that you gave earlier in the module, what are the strengths you selected as a primary focus? You should have two or three. Be sure to include at least one strength that is related to a professional/soft skill. Answer the following questions for each strength that you selected as a primary focus:

* How will using this strength directly benefit your employer, now or in the future?
* Goal: In what way do you wish to develop your strength further? Try to be specific about what you want to accomplish.
* Strategy/Tactic: How will you develop it further? What resources will you use to do so?
* Objective: At the end of the term, how specifically will you know if you successfully achieved your goal?

| **Strength** | **How can it benefit your employer?** | **How will you develop it?** |
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| Independency | My employer is a developer as well, they require time to work on company work as well and do not have much time to worry about me. Thus being independent can give them less to worry about. | I believe this is mostly practice and continuing to provide adequate deliverables. Double check with the employer to see if it is of good quality and if so, continue to work or find more tasks to prove yourself as a quality member of the company. |
| Competency in Artificial Intelligence | Currently, I am working with a lot of artificial intelligence. While my work is not centralized around them, my knowledge helped me onboard more efficiently. | I am currently looking at the company’s source code and the current artificial intelligence. Production level artificial intelligence is very different than the models that I have created and I am learning a lot from it. |
| Innovation Mindset | I want to find out as much as possible. When the employer wants to explain something to me, I want to be able to have the explain the basics and find out as much as I can about the topic. This will save the employer time. | I feel like this is mostly practice as well. I want to try my best to find out as much as I can during my 4 months at Epson. |

# Areas for Growth

Using the answers that you gave earlier in the module, what are the areas for growth you selected as a primary focus? You should have two or three. Be sure to include at least one area for growth that is related to a professional/soft skill. Answer the following questions for each area for growth that you selected as a primary focus:

* How would developing this area for growth benefit a future employer?
* Goal: To what degree do you wish to further develop in this area? Try to be specific about what you want to accomplish.
* Strategy/Tactic: How will you develop it further? What resources will you use to do so?
* Objective: At the end of the term, how specifically will you know if you successfully achieved your goal?

| **Area for Growth** | **How can it benefit your employer?** | **How will you develop it?** |
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| Communication | Learning to communicate with employees can increase workflow and efficiency. The employer can assign more work if we communicate better. | Through practicing! Communication is learned through communicating with other people. |
| Software skills | Currently, my software skills are minimal compared to senior developers. If my software skills were better, I would be able to take on more advanced projects. | Use Leetcode and learn from senior developers. Look at source code and try my best to think about how developers write the code. |
| Reading code | I will be able to compare and understand the workflow a lot quicker. The employer can assign me more debugging and integration tasks. | I need to find an effective method to read production code. Since it is extremely difficult to understand, I am able to talk to other developpers to see what their method is to understand the code. |

# Work Term Mission

Craft a Work Term Mission that is a concise statement of your goals for the term regarding your selected employer, job, strengths, and areas for growth. It may be helpful to begin with “By the end of this term, I will ...” You can aim for one sentence each, though you can probably group some together if it makes sense. The resulting Work Term Mission should serve as an achievable goal post you can refer back to throughout the term to keep your experience on track.

Here is the example again: “By the end of this term, I will find out if I am successful and enjoy working in a technical marketing role. I will determine what aspects of working for a small regional office of a large corporation I do and do not like. I will use and further my collaboration skills, and I will seek to grow my ability to plan and meet deadlines.”

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| By the end of this term, I will find out if I enjoy working in the software industry as a developer and will know how large companies function internally. I will continue to use my strengths to reach my goal while working on my areas of growth to make myself the strongest candidate for the coop term. I want to be able to understand developer code that I read as well as know if I enjoy working at a larger software company. I will continue to use my strengths in independency and use my innovational mindset to learn as much as possible to accomplish my goal. |