My initial impression of computer can date back to the time when I was a little boy no more than 10 years old. At that time, a computer was just entertainment for me since video games were all the things it offered. Games, in my very personal view at that time, were entertaining indeed but not that useful. Therefore, I failed to see a greater value of computer until years later, one day I accidentally opened a map editor of a game named StarCraft and saw a complex program which literally controlled every piece on the screen. Through that map editor I imagined a whole different usage of a computer, that is, it can run powerful program to carry out complicated tasks far beyond games.

Several years later, in the long summer days after China's College Entrance Examination, when I was considering what to learn for future years, suddenly the old impression of the map editor came up into my mind, and it drove me seriously consider about majors related to computer. With an excellent performance in the College Entrance Examination, 86th place among 170 thousand peers in Jilin Province (its size is similar to Ohio), soon I was accepted by School of Software of Beijing Institute of Technology, one of the premier universities in China.

Since my ethnic group is Korean-Chinese, a minority group in China, the beginning year of my university life presented me with a large cultural gap between Chinese culture and mine, which gave rise to subsequent nationality chaos. However, fortunately, these issues did not trouble me long because soon I found my major fully occupied my mind. While working with peers to code various programs such as FTP server, lexical parser and network port scanner, I gradually developed my enthusiasm for programming. In the summer vacation of junior year, together with several friends I built a team to participate the Robocup China Open 2009, which was going to be held in December. We devoted the whole summer and fall for reading papers, discussing and coding, and in return, won the 3rd place at the tournament. Through the tournament, I had a chance to take a glimpse of research and experience the joys and frustrations it can offer, and more importantly, I found my genuine interests.

At my senior year, I decided, headstrong, to attend the graduate school in the United States to follow my interests. I worked for this goal and received several admissions. However, because of the unfavorable financial condition, I had to postpone the enrollment date for one year. Being an optimist, this setback did not discourage me. Instead of attending a graduate school, I opted to go to the industry. One or two years, I reasoned, would afford me the time to gain working experience and some perspective of my field.

After exciting job hunting, I won a position from NexStreaming Corporation, a Korean IT company which takes the lead in global mobile multimedia solutions. Without knowing what a tremendous change I will go through, I started my life as a software engineer in Seoul, South Korea. These years were eventful, and it helped me further develop my capabilities. At work, I extensively developed my programming and communication skills to handle complex tasks. During two year's work, I also gained a deeper understanding of computer and software systems, along with some perspective in this field that I expected. Out of work, I practiced my leadership as a leader and manager of an armature soccer club of twenty people.

However, slowly I realized that my life and job were not what I envisioned of myself. The career that I was dreaming about was a research engineer working on next-generation technologies and products in a leading IT company. To achieve this career goal, a Master's degree is a must. I know it is time for me to attend a graduate school. Furthermore, as the first generation in my family to receive the college education, I understand how education positively affects the life of a man. Witnessing the hardships, especially economical, that my honest and hard-working parents had to go through, I always cherished the opportunity of college education I was given. This familial factor is also a strong drive for my pursuit of further education.

My career goal and familial factors are driving me toward, and my academic background and working experience have prepared me for the graduate education. Moreover, I have a passion to undertake the Master program. Though no one could foretell the future, I believe that when looking back this crucial decision in my forties, I would be proud of myself since it would prove to be a wise one.