Dear weedmaps team,

My name is Joe.

I am a tech enthusiast that loves collaborating with others to help them solve problems and I have had the good fortune to gain a very broad experience as an IT technician in a leading network devices and systems company (Blu Wireless), where I not only worked in operations across a range of platforms, I also built automation tooling for the DevOps pipeline directly with the Software Engineering team.

This position required a rapid acquisition of knowledge about all layers of our IT systems from troubleshooting network issues, to configuring and managing our physical server stack, tracing errors through logs, backing up data, monitoring and graphing using Nagios and Grafana (I have since dabbled with Prometheus), deploying and maintaining web applications using Docker and Vms.

I particularly enjoyed supporting our expert users and providing support during the rollout of new technology such as Mimecast security for email. Alongside my day to day support duties I built a configuration management system for our physical server stack and used it to administer updates and later in the process of migrating the entire server infrastructure from CentOS 7 (now out of support) to Rocky Linux 9. I enjoyed the process of documenting implementations and leaving lasting user guides and take pride that my automation systems (in both IT and devOps) are still being used to this day.

Whenever I had downtime between tasks I would be interacting with the Software Engineering team and learning about their work. Soon was able to take on some extra work developing a release note generation tool to enhance their DevOps CI/CD pipeline. This project culminated in a fully tested Python application which extracted developers’ release notes from Jira tickets and correlated them with the git commit logs and presented them in a PDF document containing all change notes since the previous software release. It also presented a live view of release notes from recent commits to for the engineering manager. I continued to work closely with the team until I emigrated to the Bay Area, building test suites and CI pipelines with Zuul and Githooks.

Now I am living in San Francisco and am excited to take my skills to the next level and transition into Support Engineering where I can deepen my coding knowledge while having the opportunity to help others resolve bugs and issues in an active and evolving code base. In the meantime I am working in an orchid boarding center that cares for orchids while they are in the dormant state and brings them to clients when they bloom. I take pride in providing a bespoke experience for each client. This could mean arranging delivery times and locations that suit them or could be a few hours spent researching a rare breed of orchid to ensure that we can give it the best care possible.

As for my educational background, I have a masters degree in Mathematics and Physics. While this is not computer science, there is a high degree of crossover in terms of attention to detail and problem solving. In terms of material, I have made up the gap with self-led learning, completing college level courses in CS (including C and C++ programming) and Python coding well before my first job in tech. I am also constantly tinkering with Linux automation, talking to LLMs and building side projects in my spare time. This includes a personal website that is hosted using an Nginx reverse proxy inside a virtual machine in a docker container. I believe this, combined with my outgoing nature and ability to communicate with stakeholders on all levels, makes me a great candidate for the position.

Thanks and have a great day,

Joseph Foster