Hi Zooxers,

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, nginx and PostgreSQL.

I particularly enjoyed learning and understanding how all the systems integrate together and finding ways to efficiently monitor and manage these systems. 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. I loved this project and the opportunity to develop my coding skills (which are now very robust, especially in Python). Working within this team also made me literate in C++, since this is how they programmed the hardware). 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 work towards becoming a DevOps Engineer. 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