

“Tell me about yourself.”

My name is Justin Marcus Santiago. I am a student of STI College Calamba taking up IT and I am passionate about using technology to make a difference. I have become very good at programming, web development and system analysis throughout my studies. I’ve used these skills in group projects, like creating software to make community services better.

I haven’t really had a formal internship, but I have done extracurriculars like bootcamps. It has enabled me to work with peers, improve my technical skills, and become a better problem solver.

Can you tell me a little about your strengths and weaknesses?

Another essential skill that I have developed while studying IT is problem solving skills – because in most of the projects, we are supposed to find solutions to some technical problems. I’m flexible because I can learn with ease new technologies and work settings as I have used different tools and applications in my learning process. I am a team player and have been part of many group projects where working together was the only way to get a positive result. But there is one thing that I am currently working on, which is public speaking. This has been an area I have been working on, by volunteering to present in class, and looking for any chance to present my ideas to other people, even if it’s just in front of a few people. I’ve got more confidence with time but it’s something that I still need to work on.”

Where do you want to be in 5 years?

I see myself becoming solid professional within IT (especially in software development or systems administration) in 5 years." I want to passionately develop my skills to where I can tackle leadership roles on projects that help drive invention and change for the better. I’m excited to learn and grow in an entry level role, but eventually I’d like to be able to lead IT activities from an individual as well as a community standpoint; providing benefits to the organization and the community reduction in time, cost, and functionality waste linked to code.

Can you tell me about your leadership experience?

I was part of a group meeting in my final year of college to create a capstone project, and we built a web-based system for a local business. I was the official leader of the group but with my help in managing the team's efforts I naturally took on a leadership role.

Situation: We delivered under tight deadlines, and with different ideas on how to implement such key features.

Task: I stepped up and got it done: Meetings scheduled, and people knew what they needed to do.

Action: I also worked closely along with the group to keep them in the loop and stay on the same page so that when things got complicated, we were able to adapt.

Result: We were able to finish the project on time and it was a success with regard to the professor and the client. "I learnt how to communicate clearly, and how to motivate a team to a common goal."

Tell me about a time when you were asked to complete a task but didn't have the information you needed. What did you do?

In one of my IT classes, we had a group project to finish a program that used a framework that was new to us. At the time I wasn't very familiar with this framework.

Situation: Neither did any of my team members, nor did we have all the resources we needed.

Task: I did research on what I could do to make it happen.

Action: So, I was able to research tutorials and official documentation, and I had also asked one of our instructors for help with this. I shared the resources with my team, worked through the learning curve together.

Result: The framework was sufficiently implemented, sufficiently and the project was completed on time. When I discovered an unfamiliar challenge, I realized it's really important to take the initiative to find the right resources to develop the solution myself.

Tell me about a time when you failed.

My first semester riding this new bike of college was severely affected by my grades. Once I entered college, I struggled to balance the extracurricular activities I did and my academic work.

Situation: It was quite a job managing coursework and other commitments.

Task: But when I thought over my performance, I realized that I wasn't organized enough.

Action: So, I started to be a planner, I set priorities and put more hours into my studies. I also asked my professors.

Result: By the next semester, my grades rose substantially, and they've been good ever since. By solving this experience, I understand that time management is so important and that you need to ask for help when in need."

Why should I hire you over the next person?

I bring technical skills, adaptability, and a real eagerness to make a difference — so you should hire me. My IT background has given me problem solving skills and software development and systems analysis experience. On top of that, I'm a very collaborative one as I've had several team projects where communicating was essential to our success.

Also, I'm keen to learn and expand, and I believe bringing my new outlook and passion for considering technology in practical solutions to real problems will be a good fit to your company. I am ready to hit the ground running and be a part of your mission, keep getting better and better at what I do."