

Work Term Analysis Report

Data Scientist at WATTCH FITNESS

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(1) Wattch Fitness is an entertainment powered fitness software platform that truly understands motivation and the untapped potential of film & TV. Wattch combines cutting edge sports science, technology, and natural human behaviors, which is what the digital fitness boom has so far missed. Our patented methodology converts the emotional storyline into a synchronized, variable workout. It's as easy as pressing PLAY.

I started at Wattch Fitness through the ISSP course in Term 3 of the Computer Information Technology program. As a group of 8 students we carried out a development project using Agile Methodology to create a proprietary internal application for Wattch. This application was coded through Python extensions which outputted a resistance profile that syncs to movies. Travis Stevenson, a Co-Founder of Wattch Fitness, loved my energy and passion so much that he hired me full time through BCIT's co-op program.

(2) As the third every employee of Wattch Fitness, I am responsible for all technical matters throughout the company. This includes supporting and enhancing the proprietary application which in turn means developing an embedded tagging system, making bug fixes, developing API for Azure environment, supporting integration and related testing, and documenting functional and business requirements. The application represents a significant step forward in developing Wattch Fitness's machine learning algorithm that will analyze media and output resistance profiles automatically. I hope to stay with Wattch long enough to be a part of this stage.

After the BCIT team finished the application, Wattch hired a main development team in April that executed the first iteration of the Wattch MVP iOS application. As the technical

person of Wattch, my responsibility was to assist the main development team with gaps in knowledge about company and the results Travis is expecting to see. The application my team and I had built outputs a JSON file that then feeds into the main application, editing its structure and deploying operations to Azure was also my responsibility.

Currently, Wattch has a functional MVP application that lets a user ride to films and even upload their ride data to a fitness application called Strava. As of July 26th, the day I am writing this, I am in the midst of gathering a beta testers group to collect ride data. This is important for the refinement of resistance profile, application usability, and overall '*Wattching*' experience. Adjacent to this, I am structuring a PostgreSQL database where the collected data will live. This is made possible with a Python program I coded that pulls all the exercise files from Azure, reads them, gathers important information, then outputs it into pgAdmin 4 database software platform.

(3) The skills I am learning in this co-op placement will largely influence the success in my last CIT term and my career onwards. Technical skills I am practicing such as coding in Python and SQL will prepare me for development courses in my last term as well as technical interviews I will have in the future. This placement has also grown my communication and networking skills immensely, as I find it easier to express myself to my higher ups and investors we meet. Working at Wattch has connected me to a numerous amount of people in the tech industry and other fields. Lastly, working at a start-up has let me be more creative with day-to-day tasks. Since there is a lot of work to do, I have become more organized and accustomed to efficiently working from home.

(4) I believe I was selected for this position because of my unique experience in the tech industry and the cycling industry. I have lots of technical skills that are attractive to start-ups and lots of knowledge about indoor cycling. As well, my previous education in Mathematics helped me shine and let me participate in more academic applications inside of Wattch, such as creating formulas and analysis.

(5) Three questions I would ask candidates if I were on an interview panel for this co-op position would first be: “Are you a problem solver? Give an example of a time you showed this.” From working at Wattch, I’ve learnt that everyday there is a new problem to solve. You need to think quickly on your feet. The second question I would ask is, “Are you organized?”. This for the reason that when working at Wattch, documents and records need to be kept of progress and explanation of processes. Since it is a small, fast-growing company, it is very important in early stages. The last and third question I would ask is, “Are you good at analyzing data”. At Wattch, we are constantly looking for quantitative facts to assess the performance of the application. This is an important skill to have for working here.

(6) Travis Stevenson and Jordan Stevenson have been the best mentors I could have asked for throughout his co-op journey. They are both well rounded individuals and have lots of knowledge about the industry and beyond. Travis, a Co-founder, runs two businesses and is extremely organized. He the most high-functioning person I know and still makes time for his family. Jordan is a Masters student and soon to be PhD student at UBC. He is a great person to come to for inspiration and guidance. I learnt a lot from him, as he is an extremely talented networker and knows how to ask good questions. Those skills I have been practicing and improving, asking him for tips on ways to improve.

(7) The first greatest learning moment from this placement is when I was helping the Punchcard, the main development team. They were unsure about how to implement automatic uploads to Strava using their API. After showing me the code that they wrote, I was able to solve the problem without knowing how to code in ReactJS. This was a great moment for me because I learnt on the spot and exemplified my problem-solving skills. The second learning moment was when I had a one-to-one call with an investor to show him the application. The call went amazingly since I prepared well in advance and asked him lots of detailed questions to show I was intrigued. This was a great time to practice my networking skills successfully.

Overall, working at Wattch through the cooperative experience program has been an incredible experience. I hope to one day work full time at this start-up once the application is released to the public.

