As I sat inside the new office from my recent promotion at HP, solving an internal search content issue for the fourth time that month, I found myself going through the motions and wondering where the joy from the better paying job had seeped, and then, in a moment of sudden inspiration, I knew: I was no longer facing new challenges. I had stopped learning.

At the “Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey” I was fortunate enough to count with the mentorship of PhD Gildardo Sánchez Ante with whom I chose to undertake a research internship at the University's state of the art Motion Capture laboratory. The purpose of the research was to analyse the precision of the equipment in order to determine whether partnerships with local hospitals would prove beneficial by bettering the diagnosis of patients with certain types of disabilities and thus, helping the hospitals provide a more appropriate treatment. The results were several bundles of data for the auditing of the hospital boards. Unfortunately, bureaucratical hurdles eventually thwarted the furtherment of this project.

Towards the end of my undergraduate studies I got the chance to develop a licence plate recognition software, a project that I particularly enjoyed due to the fact that I was able to combine previous knowledge and research with pragmatism. I concocted a cross breed between backpropagation neural networks and kohonen maps with the purpose of examining the effect that a set of prerecorded associations between letters and numbers (in the kohonen map) would have in the learning speed and accuracy of the neural network. The result, although not quite significant in the long run was positive by halving the time to reach the cusp of the learning curve and thus, help the system reach a state of reliable results much faster. The net effect that it had on me was much greater, though. It gave me a realistic sense of what applying cutting edge knowledge into a software development process entailed and also a good taste of that characteristic sensation of kindling inside one self that only comes from curiosity steming into discovery and achievement. I knew then that this was an experience I wanted to repeat throughout my career.

Upon my graduation I was able to obtain a job in the area of software development at HP, working in the intranet search department for the 300, 000 HP employees. At first I was doing development in Java and I soon realized that the workloads between the software development department and the QA department were cyclic and alternated, so I decided to volunteer to help ease their workload while it was at its peak since it coincided with my workload being at its nadir. I got to learn things such as test case development, software testing automation and tools like Jmeter for web load testing and Quality Test Pro for automation, but more importantly, it gave me a different perspective to software development that I have since tried to incorporate in my projects through unit testing and test driven development.

I then, got more involved in the indexing process of the Internal Search tool where I had my first encounter with the Python programming language and soon fell in love with it. I decided to learn on my own. Within a year I was put in charge of all the Python development for Internal Search and given the title of "Python expert" within the team.

As I continued through my path of learning new skills and facing new challenges at HP, I was offered the position of Integration Consultant, which came with a better paycheck and fewer headaches from technical difficulties. I joyously accepted. I soon came to realize, however, that it came at the cost of the everyday challenges to which I had grown so fond and the learning that they entail. It was at this time that I left HP and decided I needed to take a step back and think very carefully the path towards which I wanted to steer my career.

During my hiatus from work I was involved in an accident that resulted in a surgery and a six month rehabilitation period that made my absence from the work force longer than I had originally expected but it also gave me the perspective that comes from staying still in a world where normally everything seems so urgent and one is always busy. During this period I decided that it was time for me to go back out there and try to make a difference in the world so I got a job at a startup company called Messoft, developing software for small businesses while at the same time I started a long process of searching for learning opportunities that would be challenging and motivating for me.

* Close with academic interests and why I chose Advanced Software Engineering at Sheffield