I wrote my first ever computer program in Pascal about 8 years ago. As with most programmers, a simple "Hello, World!" opened up a whole new world of possibilities. In a few months I coded a more advanced version of the arcade game Space Invaders with an adjustable shooting angle and other additional features which made both me and the 70s proud. After that I never stopped experimenting with the languages: from back-end to front-end, from useful to esoteric, from feature-rich and high-level to the ones close to the machine code. The thrill and excitement, which always accompanied the influx of new information and challenges, have kept pushing me to improve throughout the intervening years.

Studying in a school that specializes in Maths and Computer Science, I was able to cover… . complex topics, some of which are usually studied in the second and theprogramming in C AVL trees, Huffman coding and OpenGL rendering, among others. My experience learning C has made it much easier for me to pick upaforementioned tasks were quite complicated, learning new programming languages.

I recently became more aware of the flip side of the unprecedented convenience of modern world digital technology - the business model of the big tech companies based on collection of personal data for improving their eerily addictive algorithms and later sale to advertisers. I could not stay indifferent to such an invasion of personal privacy for long, so I started to research. After extensive research, I completely revolutionised my digital lifestyle. Switching to an open source OS such as Linux allowed me to decompose any action that is undertaken inside of it down to the lowest possible level. This has allowed me to fully understand and trust the system I use on a daily basis. Not to mention the sheer amount of acquiredI documented part of the skills and knowledge that came with this process in my EPQ project "WIP EPQ project name".

(CONCLUSION)

Nonetheless, the real journey, be it a university course work or a real-world application, is only about to begin.

Other comments:

- Can Akim talk a little more about his school studies beyond computer science (and indeed tell us explicitly that he is studying computer science A-level / IB!) It would be particularly useful to know about independent/longer-form research projects, collaborations with other students, how the whole suite of his exam subjects has impacted his thinking on computer science, and any prizes/extra-curricular academic projects he might have taken part in (eg competitions, writing for the school blog, that sort of thing).

- Can Akim talk a little more about his research in the field of computer science, eg which books he’s read, any journals/magazines he follows, any summer schools / extra courses etc? There are references to research and to an EPQ, but neither of these is really given the prominence they should have. Similarly, it would be useful to know what he sees as being the big issues facing computer science and/or where he sees his primary interests lying at the moment - he has a paragraph on privacy, which could be expanded a little to take in some of the broader discussions within the field, but can he give at least one further example of a topic that interests him?

- Does he have any extra-curricular stuff he could mention? I’d normally expect to see this in the final paragraph, but any internships/work experience would be good fodder for the penultimate paragraph, and similarly, any prizes/projects / exams would be useful to weave throughout the statement.

Remember that Oxford will interview, so to a certain extent, the personal statement is a trailer for that conversation, and he needs to show that he’s a lively and curious mind who will have interesting things to say about the subject as a whole.