

My name is Alan, and I have been fascinated with computers for most of my life. I got my first laptop when I was 12, and broke it when I was 13 by setting and then incorrectly removing a BIOS password, which cost me a trip to a computer repair store - my first interaction with such a place. I was amazed at the idea of people fixing or modifying computers, and the idea stuck. Since then I've never been back, electing to fix the problem myself. Some time shortly after, I figured out what exactly NOT to uninstall by removing my Atheros network driver. I fixed it easily, because I knew about the Windows system restore functionality (probably from previous mistakes in a similar vein). This victory only planted further how much I wanted to keep trying and learning things. At 14 I got a laptop with a disc drive, and I started testing out Linux distributions in my spare time. Back when it was common to burn them to discs, I had a 10-cd case all loaded up with different distros. My parents and grandparents started to notice my abilities with computers and would ask for help, anything from printer connectivity to simply using a web browser. I became intimately familiar with what the control panel had to offer - I was absolutely obsessed with settings and configuration.

Now that I'm older, I have had more opportunities for bigger things. I built my first desktop computer in 2015 out of some friends' old parts, and once I saved up a bit more I started replacing them with newer and more powerful components. I collect and restore old Thinkpads by giving them SSD's and more ram, sometimes also getting a new keyboard that hasn't worn down so much. On my personal favorite laptop, an x200, I have flashed a fully free BIOS onto the chip with a Raspberry Pi. Funny enough, before I did this I had to remove the supervisor password locking the old BIOS so I could update the embedded controller firmware. I did this by bridging two pins on the little BIOS chip at a perfect timing - this is probably one of my favorite accomplishments as it wraps full circle with my first major screw up. When I was in college I wanted to use this experience for a job, and applied to work as a student assistant to the IT Manager of one of the buildings. This job was really fun for me, because I got to use my experience to actually solve problems on occasion - like when I was able to fix an issue my boss had with Clonezilla on my own using my linux knowledge.

I would love to have the experience of working with you and your team. It would be my absolute pleasure to use that experience to further my own abilities, and use them in a productive environment. I hope you consider my application, and I appreciate your time in reading this. Have a wonderful day, and I hope to hear back from you!