

To whom it may concern,

I have worked with a number of brilliant individuals over my career, from self-made billionaires to Nobel Prize-winning paper co-authors to “100x” engineers. Alex Godfrey is one of the brightest and most capable humans of them all. If you have the privilege of receiving an application for him to work for your organization, hire him, and don’t think twice about it.

From the moment we met, it was clear that his talent is extraordinary, but I was skeptical of his ability to execute. He put that fear to rest within a few days of working together. Alex brought stability and resolve to struggling and veering teams, proving himself not only a very capable developer, but also an extremely knowledgeable, thoughtful, and patient leader. In just 3 months between the time he was hired and the time in which we ceased our business operations, he ascended from intern to technical lead of over 15 of the best engineers in the country, presiding over the technical development of mind-bending projects that the world has never seen the likes of. I wish I had more time to work with him, as it is so rare to find such individuals.

I can assuredly say that without him, many of our best products — nay, all of them — would not have developed as they did if not for being under his watchful eye. While other members on our team may have been specialists in one area of software development, nobody I have met has the ability to synthesize and strategically develop a methodological pipeline for development like him. Alex has an intrinsic understanding of how different areas of computer science interact and coexist that allows him to program and build much more efficiently and effectively than his peers ever could. He is a dominating, borderline unstoppable force that given the right environment, can execute on any task within his repertoire.

However, I would be irresponsible to not mention some of his quirks. He is still very young, both in age and in temperament — which can be a good or bad thing, depending on the culture of your organization; one of the reasons I recruited him, and why he meshed so well with us, is that he sees the world as what it could be, not just what it is. He is as idealistic as he is realistic, so putting him in a box to merely execute will lead to the wasting of his potential and may lead to him being dissatisfied with the work he does. He will require a supervisor/mentor who is capable of handling a high-output, high-powered machine, which not all organizations have the luxury of employing. Alex also knows how good he is, which may draw admiration, but also strike discomfort into peers who are less secure and confident than him. *Do not* put him on teams where his brilliance is shunned, or where his peers may veer towards jealousy and distrust with someone who is fundamentally different.

You are dealing with a star. Be prepared for all that comes with it.

Best regards,

Benjamin Liker
CEO, Altum Labs