

Matthew Zaldana
123 Main St
Anywhere, CA 90001
(555) 545 – 5454
Random_email@domain.com

USC Personal Statement Requirements: The personal statement should describe succinctly your reasons for applying to the proposed program at the Viterbi School of Engineering, your preparation for this field of study, study interests, future career plans, and other aspects of your background and interests which may aid the admissions committee in evaluating your aptitude and motivation for graduate study.

From taking apart video game files in Windows 98 to hacking the early Windows 2003 computer game source code for Magic Ball, I have tinkered with the intricacies of a computer before my memory starts. Pictures taken of me disconnecting a heavy 3-inch hard drive from my Dad's PC are living proof of how I understood computers at a young age. By the time I "promoted" from elementary to middle school, I was typing twice as fast as the second fastest student in my class. At 90 words per minute, every keystroke meant that I was one step closer to finishing and having fun with something else. In middle school, I volunteered within the IT department. I would help my teachers with computer issues, printer problems, and learned about servers and networking. It wasn't until high school where I was introduced to programming. The things I learned with python made me realize that I could choose between controlling what a computer could do at the software level or use my knowledge to help others as I had been doing.

I chose Computer Science as a major as I believe that I had enough knowledge in IT to embark on it as a job and pay for my studies. My love for math has always been alongside me as well and I feel that all the algorithms I have learned thus far has only prepared me for the moment where I could use one to develop a faster and more secure network for the internet of tomorrow. I have also chosen to apply to your graduate program as I believe that I could combine my previous knowledge and my growing interests in algorithms to test my plans for a new internet.

Matthew Zaldana
123 Main St
Anywhere, CA 90001
(555) 545 – 5454
Random_email@domain.com

Up to this moment, I have extensive training in IT to tackle any user problem. However, at the community college level, I gained more experience in networks than anywhere else. I have created my own server at home where I keep movie, picture, and other files stored for safe-keeping and to access them whenever I need to externally. I also created a mini network that allows me to remotely control any device not only connected to my home router but also any traffic on the street that sends out Bluetooth signals or similar, looking to get a connection to my Wi-Fi. For this last experiment, I developed a C++ code using Dijkstra's algorithm to pinpoint several nodes within a network and eventually have them interlace and not break their communication amongst each other.

For the graduate program, I plan to recreate this idea on a much larger scale. First, I would like to have a private server for the school where all devices connected to the network could talk amongst each other and share files just by using the campus servers. This would allow us to not use any outside software or tools. Then, I would like to develop an algorithm along with the current ones that could solve the problem for the lack of fast internet in third world countries as well as ushering in the future of a new internet, deploy within the school and finally to the world.

I believe that my experience in both IT, networking, servers, and with your permission, an increase in knowledge of algorithms in Computer Science, would allow me to reach that goal. Thank you for your time. I do hope you find me to be the candidate you are looking for to be part of your program.