Organically raised and grass fed in Portland OR, I grew up with my older brother and single mother in a modest home. I attended public school in the Clackamas county school district up till high school where I then started at La Salle Catholic College Preparatory. There, after struggling with culture shock, I became invested in theater, art, and the science department. I learned to adapt, learn, and challenge my peers the same way they challenged me. I graduated with honors in 2013 and moved north to attend University of Washington. The 4+ blurred years of late nights at the library and intoxicating weekends with friends cemented my morals and pillars in who I am. I was exposed as to what the world had to offer and I discovered what I wanted. I would then graduate in the summer of 2017 with a B.S. in Computer Science and would move on to my first “big-boy” job as a software developer in 2018 near Seattle.

Organically raised and grass fed in Portland OR, I grew up in a small home with my brother and parents. I attended public school in the Clackamas County school district with the same people I had lived next to for a majority of my youth. Between swimming down at ‘High Rocks’ or picking black berries from behind the house, my childhood was 2nd to none in the ideal way. I played soccer, football and baseball in the local youth teams. I focused on science and art in my studies and unknowingly demonstrated my yearn to learn more. After being heavily integrated with one of the local football teams, my family had learned of a private school that most of the other kids attended which my brother would then ask to attend. As a lower middle-class family, my parents agreed to send us there for 1 year to see ‘that side of paradise’. Later that December, my mother would land a job as the accountant there and receive a discount. I attended La Salle Catholic College Preparatory high school and experience a culture shock like none other. Previous to my freshman year of high school, my parents divorced. My mother was left with two boys during the largest financial crash in recent history. We would soon realize that the school that my family had just invested in was not only an education facility, but arguably a life altering community to ensure my safety and empower me to be the best version of myself. I shook off the rigidness I developed and opened up to a group of friends and faculty that challenged me in a multitude of ways. Here, I became invested in theater, art, and the sciences. I struggled academically at first but had learned to adapt and grow. I had a good group of friends but remained reserved in getting close with some. I struggled with my identity and was still feeling depressed and disingenuous. That along with I was being an angst tanager. In my senior year, I decided to come out to my classmates on a class retreat. Fearful of being gay at a catholic school that my mother worked at quickly dissolved when a religion teacher took me aside and said: “I don’t necessarily agree with your life style, but that doesn’t mean I love you or respect you any less”. I graduated in the summer of 2013 with honors and would work at a local retail store and for the Oregon City Police that summer while trying to enjoy every last second with my friends. I then left home with my belongings packed in the back of my car and headed north to attend University of Washington and major in computer science. I yet again experience a culture shock with the people around me and the new setting my family had been completely unaware of. I worked my way through by working part time as an auto detailer at a local car lot where I quickly became the assistant (part-time) manager. After failing my first quarter at school, I quickly realized that what I was doing and where I was required me to prove myself. I quit my part time job and became a full time student. These four years became a blur of countless nights in the library and forgetful weekends with friends. I had met people I would have never thought id get to meet from all corneres of the world. I tried things that I didn’t even know that I could try. And I struggled with things I didn’t know could be fought. I graduated on time in the summer of 2017 with a B.S. in Computer Science. My graduation day was easily the worst day of my life. I had set out on a 4+ year long goal and reached it. I honestly had never thought that I would actually do what I said and planned for. I slipped into a deep state of depression looking for answers to the looming question of “now what?”. I was fortunate to be asked to do research with a professor which kept me somehwhat occupied while I looked for a job. Yet again, my family help me up in my times I most needed it. In January of 2018, I would start my first big-boy job at T-Mobile in Bellevue as a software developer and move to downtown Seattle.

After graduating college, I moved to downtown Seattle in 2018 and have been experience the art, food, and people while adjusting to city life. Between exploring the vast parks in Seattle to the gritty corners of the cement jungle, I’ve learned to enjoy the city around me and work on my personal skills by meeting new people and trying new things. <br>

The lack of homework, papers, and research, has allowed a me to discover the world around me and myself in it. I have realized my interest in film runs deep with my constant support and activity in the local film community. I support the local film festivals and independent showings at the Seattle theaters. I’ve also found the time to read more; From favorite writers like Bradbury, Fitzgerald, and Serling, I recently started a book club that stretches across the pacific north west with weekly online meetings and discussions. <br>

As for my career, I am a software Developer at T-Mobile leading the next revolution of automation and machine learning tools to leverage a rapidly growing networking company in a 5G future. My projects have ranged from developing IoT standards to building a load balancer for a nationwide network. I’m discovering real-world problems while gaining the skills and exposure to solve them.

Looking forward, I plan to stay in the tech industry for a little while to gain experience and understanding of real-world problems and solutions. I have found when it comes to my career, what I value most is daily coding and solving large scale problems that could change the world. <br>

I do intend to return to school to work on a masters in computer science. From there, I would like to work part time as a lecturer or researcher while I then work towards a PhD. My end goal is to lead the field of computer science while teaching and showcasing its power to new young minds. <br>

I hope to travel and see the world to explore and experience the dynamic cultures around us. Our greatest asset is diversity but its one of our biggest hurdles right now. I’ll most likely forever call the west coast home but I’m more keen on that California life. <br>

After college, I had trouble identifying who I was and what I believed in. School was my life and now that it was behind me, I had to figure out my place in the grand scheme of the universe. What were my values? Where did I come from? Where did I want to go? Who did I want to be? My favorite question to ask people is: “Why do you wake up in the morning?”. I like this question because it quickly shows what a person’s values in their life at that time. The answers are dynamic and often changes and is a great marker for who people are and where they want to go. It’s not an easy question, but I’m not here to ask easy questions, i ask hard questions. I feel like the trouble in the world today is no one is listening to each other. That if we would all just take 10 minutes a day and have difficult but respectful conversation to hear each other’s perspective, then the world would spin slightly different. I promote others to be the best versions of themselves and expect my peers to do the same to me. I believe in that if we all worked together, supported each other, and pushed everyone to be better, we as a society could do great things.<br>

My answer to this question varies day by day and has shifted over the years. But the core sentiment of my answer has remained the same: <br><br>

“I wake up every morning to empower others to go forward and change the world.”