Long Writeup – aboutme:

WHY I BECAME A PROGRAMMER:

In 2022, while strolling through the hallways of my alma mater, I stumbled upon a bench adorned with numerous textbooks left behind by a retired professor for anyone interested. Among them, a textbook from 1983 on Database Architecture using SQL for Oracle caught my attention. Intrigued by the prospect of gaining insight into the inner workings of databases, I delved into the contents cover to cover. The experience proved illuminating, sparking a realization that I had only scratched the surface of this intricate subject, fueling my appetite for more knowledge.

Driven by this newfound curiosity, I scoured online resources, educating myself on various available solutions. Despite the textbook's age, it imparted foundational principles that underpin all databases, revealing a shared ancestry even with NoSQL databases. Furthering my education, I learned Python and Postgres from Dr. Chuk's self-paced website. However, my thirst for knowledge remained unquenched.

My journey took a decisive turn when I discovered the Coding Bootcamp at the University of Toronto through 2U. The curriculum and course descriptions aligned seamlessly with the foundational knowledge I sought. Committing wholeheartedly, I enrolled in the upcoming cohort, commencing my immersive learning experience within a month. I recognized from the outset that this newfound knowledge and hands-on practice could empower me to develop practical applications across diverse industries. My goal is to assist companies in leveraging technology to enhance their processes—making them more efficient, faster, and cost-effective.

I firmly believe that we stand on the brink of another technological revolution, especially with Artificial Intelligence on the horizon. Intent on pursuing this industry, I aim to specialize in Machine Learning and Computer Vision. Embracing challenges and innovation, I am only at the beginning of my journey. Over the next five years, my plan is to write code continuously, learn, and expand my knowledge, ultimately becoming an expert in the field.

In high school, I harbored a strong inclination toward engineering. During my senior year, I secured a co-op placement at an engineering firm where I honed my skills in AutoCAD and drafting electrical installation drawings. Impressed with my work ethic, they hired me for the summer after graduation. Seeking guidance from my manager, I inquired about choosing an engineering discipline. His advice, emphasizing the importance of pairing engineering with business knowledge, resonated with me. Taking his counsel, I enrolled in McMaster University's Engineering and Management program, a challenging path blending technical engineering, finance, accounting, project management, business strategy, marketing, and administration. Although unconventional, this unique combination provided a holistic education. Grateful for the mentorship of my first engineering manager, Norm Fisher, I reflect on the invaluable advice that shaped my educational journey at McMaster University.

My Work Experience:

After completing my studies at McMaster University, I took a reflective look at my educational journey, realizing the rewards that come from embracing challenging paths. Despite excelling in technical and engineering subjects, I discovered a disparity in my proficiency when it came to business skills, particularly in interpersonal interactions and managing expectations.

Recognizing the need to address this gap, I ventured beyond my comfort zone to work as a Project Coordinator with various companies. This decision marked the continuation of my education, focusing on the intricacies of navigating the human psyche and managing expectations across different stakeholders. My journey began with a major corporation, SNC Lavalin, where I contributed to a multidisciplinary project involving over 3000 engineers. Under the mentorship of Guy Germaine, I gained practical insights into project planning, procurement, documentation, change management, public speaking, client relation management, and the critical skill of Project Control.

Guy's tough love and stern methods taught me how to remain calm and steadfast in the face of unpredictable project changes, introducing me to the benefits of an Agile approach to project management. The most valuable lesson was embracing change as an inherent part of any project or plan, a principle I carry with me to this day. Merci, Guy!

Having absorbed all I could from the mega project at SNC Lavalin, I sought the next challenge: fulfilling the technical requirements for obtaining my Professional Engineer license. Opting for a start-up environment, I joined Endura Energy, a solar startup led by Cameron Steinman. This marked a phase of wearing multiple hats, contributing to various projects and immersing myself in the challenges of running a startup. Under Cameron's guidance, I expanded my knowledge of regulatory systems, financing, construction, and the internal workings of a small business.

As my journey in the solar industry evolved, I transitioned through different roles and responsibilities, eventually leading the operations department at Grasshopper (the Solar City of Ontario). Accountable for a multidisciplinary team, we executed numerous residential solar rooftop projects in South West Ontario. With the conclusion of the Ontario Solar Program in 2018, I decided to leave the industry, armed with a wealth of expertise in business operations.

Feeling that my education was reaching fruition, I embarked on my personal capstone project: laser scanning technology for construction sites. This venture started as a self-challenge to test my abilities. Over six years, I successfully established a B2B service practice, creating internal processes and standards while serving clients across Canada, the US, and the Caribbean.

While running this practice, I recalled the strategic thinking and analysis teachings of one of my best professors at McMaster, Nick Bontis. His emphasis on long-term thinking and anticipating challenges prompted me to question the scalability of my business. Despite its profitability, the challenge of finding someone with the same attention to detail and precision necessary for working with sensitive laser equipment led me to realize that, while successful, this business was not a long-term career for me. This realization fueled my exploration for new and challenging career opportunities. I understood from the beginning that my days in this business were numbered.

My Future Outlook:

I chose to begin my programming journey with JavaScript due to its incredible versatility, enabling me to develop both Frontend and Backend applications. Mastering the MERN stack, I've swiftly grasped this technology in under six months, allowing me to create practical client and server-side applications. Attending seminars in Data Engineering and Data Science, including the latest at Brain Station in downtown Toronto, has fueled my ongoing education in these areas. My next goal is to secure a position in the tech industry, working under the guidance of senior developers. By immersing myself in this vast ocean of possibilities, I aim to contribute by coding and crafting efficient applications for employers and clients alike. I'm excited about the multitude of directions this field offers and embrace the challenges that will keep me engaged and growing. I'm passionate about this journey – I love programming!

Another version:

Discovering a 1983 Database Architecture textbook sparked my programming journey. Progressing from Python to a Coding Bootcamp, I aim to leverage technology for efficient processes. My engineering background, influenced by a wise mentor, led to roles in SNC Lavalin, Endura Energy, and Grasshopper, accumulating diverse skills. My capstone project involved pioneering laser scanning technology for construction sites. While profitable, I realized the limits of scalability. Now, with a swift MERN stack mastery, I'm transitioning to web development, eyeing Machine Learning and Computer Vision. Excited about the tech industry, I'm eager to code and contribute to innovative applications.

My education summary

After discovering a passion for engineering in high school, I gained practical experience in AutoCAD and electrical installation drawings through a co-op placement. Following my manager's advice on the importance of combining engineering with business knowledge, I pursued McMaster University's Engineering and Management program, a unique blend of technical engineering, finance, accounting, and more. Excelling in technical subjects, I sought a holistic education. Post-graduation, I embraced the University of Toronto's Coding Bootcamp to integrate my technical prowess with comprehensive business skills. My goal is to leverage technology for efficient and effective business processes. In 2022, my curiosity led me to delve into database architecture, self-learning Python and Postgres, further enriching my skill set.

My Personal Challenge

Across a span of six years, I founded and cultivated a thriving B2B service enterprise specializing in the application of laser scanning technology within the construction industry. During this period, my venture not only gained recognition for its success but also garnered a reputation for delivering cutting-edge solutions to fabricators. The business focused on providing comprehensive services that leveraged advanced laser scanning technology to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and precision in various construction processes. The establishment of robust internal processes and standards was pivotal in ensuring the consistent delivery of high-quality services. This experience allowed me to navigate the dynamic landscape of construction projects, serving clients not only within Canada but also extending services to the United States and the Caribbean. Despite profitability, influenced by lessons in strategic thinking, particularly from Professor Nick Bontis at McMaster, I questioned the business's long-term scalability. Recognizing the need for precision in sensitive equipment handling, I realized it wasn't a long-term fit. This realization fueled my search for new and challenging career opportunities.