Brainstorming

* Homepage
  + welcome to the Volunteer state
  + some background info of TN/Knoxville
  + Intro the other pages
* why I was there
  + internship
    - how long
    - with who
    - what i did
    - possible future return?

**Before Going to Knoxville**

Before my co-op, I didn’t even know where Knoxville was, I kept thinking it was in Texas for some reason.

Back in February of this year (2011), I was going through an interview process with <link>Scripps Networks Interactive<link>. There were two levels to the interview, second one hidden until you pass the first, both of which were intimidating. The first level of the interview was with the manager of the group, Ron.

During the interview, Ron talked about a wide range of technologies, most of which I didn’t knew. With every question about an unknown technology, my confidence level dropped. There were some key points about the job that I thought made it the perfect co-op experience.

The position would be to work in a small team of 5 people (better than my last co-op where I was a team of 1), using Java as the main language (which I was taught year 1), and practicing SCRUM methodologies. Using anything agile was the winning point. I had been reading <link> “The Agile Samurai” <link> off the <link>Programmatic Bookshelf<link>.

Although I was able to answer some of the technical questions in the interview, the conversation had gone well and I was told about the second level of the interview process. Meet the Team.

After my conversation with Ron, it was a few days until the next step. I had time to prepare, and look up the tech that the team used. Of course this was towards the end of a riguourous quarter with lots to do (projects, hw), tons to prepare for (exams, presentations), and very little time for leasure. As such, when it came time to interview with the team, I had only learned a tad more than I had known before. Better than nothing right?

The second level of the interview process was completely different than the first. There weren’t any real technical questions, just very high level. Instead of being interviewed by the 4 other team members, 15 people had showed up. It turned out that they make interviews with potentials, open to the department for anyone to join and evaluate.

This interview was informal, and wasn’t about quizzing me on my knowledge. Instead it was more to see if my personality would <i>fit</i> with the team. After a couple of jokes, and a few laughs, I had done well with the team and had received their approval. Two days later, I had received my official offer to work with Scripps Networks, and live in Knoxville for 6 months. Did I take it?

**While in Knoxville**

**Retrospective**

* local cuisine
  + BBQ
    - Famous Dave's
    - Dead End BBQ
    - Calhoun's
    - Sweet Pea's
  + Everything else
    - Sonic (drivein)
    - Cici's Pizza
    - Shoney's
* local entertainment
  + day
    - Smokey Mountains
    - Gaitlinburg
    - Ripley's Aquarium
    - Motorcycle trips
  + night
    - Cotton Eyed Joe's
    - Ray's RSB
    - Old City
    - Salsa Knox

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