HARISH RAVISHANKAR

Harish Ravishankar (harish22@ufl.edu) is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Computer science from the University of Florida, and plans to graduate in 2018. His primary area of interest is Data science and how it can be used to improve the way business is done.

Prior to his Masters degree, Harish completed his Bachelors in Information technology at Chennai(India). While not the most outstanding student, he managed to complete his degree with reasonable grades. For his final year project, he worked with a classmate, and implemented a proof-of-concept titled "**Cognizant Car**", a simulator that showed how wireless communication between vehicles in an Adhoc network (VANET) could prevent blind spot accidents from occurring on highways.

In 2012, post his under-graduation, he joined Tech Mahindra, a fortune 500 firm to begin a career in IT. There he was trained on multiple platforms and technologies, and was assigned the role of a Database administrator. Working for 2 major international clients, across 3.5 years, he played a pivotal role in stabilizing, automating and maintaining their IT systems with a focus on database performance improvement. As recognition for his services rendered, he was given awards like "*Bravo*" & "*Star of the Month*" many times during his tenure.

In 2015, He switched companies and joined **Tata Consultancy services,** the world's largest IT service provider. Here he was tasked of leading a team of 5 people, which included responsibilities like mentoring and training junior associates. He served the client "Johnson Controls", for who he carried out critical data migrations and planned periodic activities like system upgrades. Here too he was recognized with internal awards like *"Rising Star" and "Miles Champion".*

Keen to upgrade himself, he volunteers at the Data Science Research Lab @UF. He also works at the UFIT enterprise systems as an application support analyst. He considers this to be an extension of his professional career in India, whilst being able to do an advanced degree. He also loves organizing events and meets, which he does as a member of the **Indian graduate student association** (IGSA).

Harish enjoys discussing politics, and often uses his social media accounts as a medium to air his views and debate various issues that concern India and its society. Passionate about travel, he currently has visited a total of 5 countries and plans to increase this number in the near future. He aspires to be in sales and business development in the future, and binge watches the show "**Shark Tank**" for the same reason. He loves the simple joy of spending time with family, and eating street-food of any kind. He often cites his family as a pillar of his strength, and credits them for inspiring him to keep evolving.