Personal Statement

Introduction

As a 1995 baby growing up in Singapore, a South-East Asian country with one of the heaviest emphasis on grades and work performance, I have grown up to believe in the power of knowledge and how it can transform a small fishing village to the regional economic success the world knows today. In this increasingly connected world we live in today, knowledge is passed around quickly and with the advent of open-source technology trends, one can easily learn information beyond textbooks and classrooms that will change their life.

About me

My life changed completely after I picked up coding and analytics at the start of my university education. I fell in love with debugging, visualizations and machine learning. Soon, I was watching courses on Coursera, going on GitHub and using different API packages on my own. I loved it and I wished sometimes I could just skip school lessons to just learn about image recognition, neural networks, artificial intelligence on my own (the list is endless). This brings me to my first point:

Passionate about data and machine learning

I consider myself to be extremely passionate when it comes to data and machine learning. I enjoy breaking data down into understandable content for front-end users and doing analytics for them. For example, my previous internship at RadioActive Singapore required me to prototype visualization metrics for the front-end users and perform simple machine learning algorithms on them such as clustering. I will be embarking on another local internship at Philips Morris International from May to July 2018 to do machine learning as well for their large datasets.

Ability to self-learn makes me a capable worker

I believe I have a powerful ability to self-learn. Be it through observation or through guidance, I pick up new skills fast on the job and definitely would be able to solve problems assigned to me. For example, at RadioActive Singapore, my supervisor did not explicitly guide me but many times I observed his thinking process and communication during meetings which made me understand the way the company worked better, allowing me to create better value for the company.

Communication skills in a team

Lastly, I have strong communication skills and am comfortable with speaking to an audience. I understand that in a start-up, information is ever-changing and is also passed around quickly. Hence, it is essential for employees to constantly be contactable and communicate responsibly. An example would be me leading the organization and planning of a 4 Day 3 Night university camp for over 200 freshmen. I worked with university administration staff, professors and student leaders and developed ways of responsible and effective communication through systems where they had to report to their team leaders. In this way, I ensured that information was passed up and down swiftly which resulted in a successful camp.

Conclusion

I have a unique skillset of hard and soft skills such as analytics and communication. Definitely willing to learn and give my best in any endeavor, I believe I am a good candidate for any start-up.