Self Reflection

One of the most interesting group of guest presenters we had in 2190 was the three entrepreneurs. The most fascinating and educational part was how the three people walked completely different paths of entrepreneurship, but they all agreed on how to successfully get a business started. First and foremost, a person must always be producing some sort of work. Once something that can be marketed is made, a successful entrepreneur starts by creating a cult following, usually through targeting a small community. Once the cult has been established and the product refined by the community’s feedback, then it can be advertised to the general public. This process, and more importantly the wide-spread agreement on this process, was very helpful to know and made me more willing to become an entrepreneur as there is a higher chance of success.

There are a number of career paths that I have considered, and the top two are either attending a graduate business school (ideally the Harvard Business School two plus two program), going into industry for a few years, then leaving to create my own business or alternatively going straight to industry, staying mainly on the coding/development side for the first 5-10 years, then switching to a managerial track. For both options, I really enjoy creating content and developing programs so both allow me to become a developer. I also love managing teams and leadership in general so both involve that as well. The first option gives me the personal freedom to create whatever I want and the thrill of trying to find and convince people to invest in me and my ideas as well as responsibility of failure or success of my company relying mainly on my competence. The second option is more stable and will allow me to enjoy my life and especially enjoy things outside of work, which creating a successful business might not allow me to do as my life will essential become my work. Both are a great fit for me and what I love to do, it is just deciding between the creative freedom and responsibility of entrepreneurship or the stability and outside freedom of working in the industry.

The next step in my post-BS objectives is to start producing more work. To achieve this, I plan on participating in more hackathons and joining more CIOs on grounds that deal with development like Parfait and SGD. Regardless of the path I choose, having the experience of working with a team on an actual project beyond the small projects we do at the end of some CS classes will be invaluable. It will also give me something to strengthen my resume with. I will also spend my internship exploring a major software development corporation and seeing how it works internally to help decide if I would rather spend all my time in a similar corporation or branch out on my own.