

Personal Statement version 0.9 aEaZaYaZaD

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Only a few areas of science have, in the recent years, influenced the everyday life of humanity to the extent that Computer Science has. No wonder it interests people like me - people who can see through the GUI and speculate on the way the program or algorithm works. Computer Science enriches me because it engages my mind by requiring solutions to thought-provoking problems while still creating something useful.

Mathematics, on the other hand, is not only interesting as a standalone discipline; it also provides a language for Computer Science, which in my eyes only increases its importance. I realized a long time ago that every single piece of mathematical knowledge is a weapon for a computer scientist, and so Mathematics is crucial for anyone seriously interested in Computer Science.

I have explored many areas of Informatics. Various high school programming competitions have enhanced my skills in algorithmic programming. As I have been eager about the web ever since I was 10, I gradually acquired experience with creating complex web applications. I have created some decent desktop applications using Object Pascal and Java - a full-featured webpage editor for instance, and more. However, the skill which I value the most is the general 'instinct' I use while solving a Computer-related (not necessarily a programming) problem I never met before. During the high school years I also participated in postal competitions from Mathematics, which introduced its beauty to me.

Moreover, my active participation in the online community brought me the opportunity to work part-time in a middle-sized web developing agency at the age of 15. I carried out the job of a system administrator of a whole Linux-based web server system which hosted the web portal of the prominent news agency SITA (Slovak News Agency) and one of the most popular teenage websites in Slovakia - Birdz.sk. Although I quit the job after 6 months because of the stress and excessive workload, I learnt a lot about the processes in a real IT company and responsibility handling. I operated in the same company as a web developer for another two years.

My effort has been awarded in various competitions. I participated in the national finals of the European Union Contest for Young Scientists with my study entitled "Working with video using web technologies" and won 2nd place in the Junior Internet competition with my IT community website. Now I am also, as the "head of IT", responsible for the whole technical side of the international Model United Nations conference, which will take place in the Slovak parliament in November 2010. My extended essay in IB Diploma is Computer Science-related as well - it tries to provide a real-world solution, in a form of a web2.0 application, to a challenging question: "What is the most user-friendly way of providing an interactive translation of websites?"

Nevertheless, I have some interests not related to Computer Science, too and I have been successful in these as well - I won the entrepreneurial competition Innovation Camp 2010 in Slovakia and attended European finals. Furthermore, I have been training traditional karate for 8 years and have reached the brown belt. Finally, I am a keen guitar and accordion player.

When I visited my sister, a university student in the UK, I realized that studying there could be a life-changing experience for me. As a result, I transferred to the IB in order to improve my English and get an international diploma.

I am looking for a course combining Computer Science with Mathematics because I believe that advanced mathematical knowledge is essential for deep understanding of theoretical principles of Computer Science. The course also naturally combines my interests and would guide me into their more advanced realms. It could allow me to contribute to a better world in future, either as an academic researcher, or an entrepreneur.