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Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing to apply for the “Software Engineer (Remote)” position at IXL.

My education and my professional background make me a terrific candidate for this position. I studied both math and computer science for two years at North Seattle College (cumulative GPA 3.65). There I gained a solid grasp of computer science fundamentals and object-oriented design via Java, and later Python.

In addition, I recently completed a rigorous ten week course in Python development. Many coding bootcamps focus exclusively on popular frameworks and developer tools at the expense of basic computer science theory. The course I took at Code Fellows, however, placed an emphasis on data structures, basic algorithms, and object-oriented design. You may be interested in viewing the final project I worked on at Code Fellows; it's a full-stack Python web application for recipe sharing and collaboration, built with Django and PostgreSQL. The site is live at <http://reciprocity.site>, and you can view the source code at github.com/TeamReciprocity/reciprocity.

Lastly, I have spent a great deal of time independently studying from the classic computer science textbook, *The Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs* (see my ongoing progress at michaelstokley.com!). This has enriched, and will continue to enrich, my understanding of functional design patterns, function decomposition, pseudocoding, encapsulation, and recursion.

Altogether, these three avenues of education have provided me with a strong computer science foundation and excellent programming skills in Python, an object-oriented language.

After completing the course at Code Fellows, I helped to co-found Sternshus, a big data startup in Seattle. I worked primarily to provide front-end solutions using Django and Webflow. Webflow is terrific at quickly generating polished, generic templates; integrating those templates into an existing full stack web application, on the other hand, is time consuming. I took initiative and designed, wrote, and tested sed and python scripts to automate the process as much as possible. As a result, Sternshus is more agile and better equipped to respond to rapidly changing opportunities.

Please consider the following additional qualifications. Having used Debian over the last four years, I have a good knowledge of Unix systems. At my previous position as an AR Specialist, I wrote and maintained a library of dozens of SQL queries, many of which I wrote on-demand for both internal and external customers. Finally, I have a thorough understanding of the version control system, Git.

I encourage you to visit my personal website at michaelstokley.com. There you can view some of the projects I've been working on, such as a webscraper that uses breadth-first traversal for fast, reliable results, or a natural language processing script that turns tweets into poems.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Michael Stokley