Occupational: My profession experience is categorized into three main roles: arbitrator, teacher and young professional. First, I was an arbitrator. Within this role, I maintained order by calling out intolerable actions. I glided across the surface directing young kids to their proper position and received backlash for my judgements. I was a hockey referee. Although hockey referee was a modest position, I still learned invaluable lessons as a 16-year-old. Most notably, I learned how to be a competent and wise authoritarian. This entails making firm decisions tethered to reason and rule and not on the annoyance caused by loud coaches. The occupation also allowed me to communicate with older adults in a respectable but confident manner.

Then, I was a teacher. I have both indirectly saved lives and helped young children feel confident at their next pool party. I was a swimming instructor. My role was not only to acquire clients but to teach young children swimming fundamentals. Although the business itself was modest, the experience was fruitful. Not only did I develop the strong work ethic required to successfully run a business, but I also developed the patience to interact with children. Nothing will ever prepare you to deal with a screaming child until you have done so, thankfully, I can now handle (somewhat) screaming children.

Now, I am a young professional. I started at RBC three years ago without the slightest conception about corporate culture. Here is where I put away the hockey skates and swim trunks to begin a new chapter in my life. Within my third year, I moved to corporate office to tackle different and more complex responsibilities. Although I parted ways from my friends, it was here where I had my first real mentor. She provided priceless opportunities while making distinctive efforts to expand my network; furthermore, her assistance is a driving force for why I desire to return to RBC within the upcoming years.

Education

Throughout the last four years of my Commerce education, I have become more mature, diligent, and astute. The Commerce program has taught me to thrive in highly competitive environments; however, I noticed a scarcity for talent with a business and technical background. Therefore, I choose to pursue a Computing Degree for one additional year at Queen’s University.

Both aspects of my education have contributed to my methodology of completing problems. Commerce has taught me to identify why an issue has occurred while Computing has taught me how the issue occurred. For instance, consider the simple issue of predicting churn in an organization. When I approach this problem, I begin to ask a series of questions which include: Why is this study important? How can we apply the derived knowledge? Is this worth the knowledge? What are the significant attributes that contribute to churn? Where was the dataset collected and who collected it? What methods can I use to optimally predict churn? The first questions illustrate the necessity for the study while the next three questions focus on the details of the question. With this approach, I can identify a problem but also provide a solution.

Extra-Curricular

There are two extra-curricular activities that served as impactful experiences: Queen’s Golf and Midget Hockey. First, Queen’s Golf was impactful to my development because it solidified my ability to become zealous in pursuit of a goal. Although I enjoy interacting with other members of the golf team, I discovered the most about myself during the preparation process and the try-out process. I have spent the previous three summers preparing to acquire the skills to play golf at a competitive level. Within the preparation process I learned to value the preparation process while noticing the existence of anxiety when thoughts about execution arise. In addition, the sport itself has taught one important lesson: the ability to control one’s emotions to thrive. For instance, the environmental conditions can be cold and rainy thus unsettling my mind; however, there is wisdom in knowing what cannot be controlled and applying your energy on what you can change.

Second, hockey played an important part of my life as it provided me with the ability to interact with others in a team environment. Throughout my 14-year hockey career, I have played with players ranging everywhere from undisciplined to unsportsmanlike; however, it is still one’s responsibility to improve the player to get the most out of there talent. In fact, without an effort to help your teammate, you as a player will suffer. For example, one cannot be effective if your teammates are constantly in the penalty box while the team must handle the penalty kill. There are quantifiable costs when you fail to improve your own team members.

I am uncertain about where I desire to apply my zealous work habit. Since computing is an expanding field, the choices are abundant; however, new opportunities appear every year with the introduction of new technology. In addition, I would like to find a role that mingles both business and computing aspects because I have spent the past five years developing the tools to succeed within these areas. Having knowledge in both facets allows me to pivot between roles which facilitates both excitement and engagement.

The computing streams that interest me include Cyber-Security and Blockchain. First, I desire to indulge in Security since the field will continue to expand as technology continues to integrate into every facet of our lives. Since these machines are typically connected to the network, they are exposed to attacks by malicious attackers. In addition, there is a lack of talent within the field which only intensify the current scarcity of security talent; however, I lack experience in the field and would love to expand my knowledge.

Second, the allure of Blockchain has always attracted my interest; however, the industry is a bit riskier than entering cyber-security because of the current uncertain in the industry’s future. Blockchain poses several interesting opportunities from streamlining supply chains to decentralizing monetary systems. Although Blockchain does interest me, I found it difficult to learn the appropriate technology because of the lack of quantity and quality. Nonetheless, if the opportunity presents itself to engage in an occupation involving Blockchain, I will surely engage with it.

Personal Projects:

My personal website serves two purposes: applying knowledge and talent marketing. To build proficiency in web development, I began my journey by taking a University Web Development course. I found that the course only glazed over my interest in web development failing to satisfy my desire to deeply understand the construction of a website. To further my knowledge, I began to complete online courses and tutorials from Udemy, Lynda, and YouTube; however, the knowledge gained from completing these courses can only be demonstrated through application. Building my personal website allowed me to further develop my understanding in web development but also provided an opportunity to apply the skillset I recently obtained.

In addition, I wanted another means by which I can market myself. Although LinkedIn and University Portals can be effectively at exclaiming your desire to be hired, they fail to set you apart from the others that also use these platforms. Therefore, once I captured the attention of a recruiter, I can further establish a salient image in the recruiter’s mind by pointing them to my website. I effectively change the perception of the recruiter to my own skillset because the median in which he does the inspection will be of my creation. Consequently, the recruiter’s judgement will be laced with the idea that I must have obtained some degree of knowledge in website development. Such a phenomenon can be analogous to eating pizza in the USA and Italy. Although the pizza might be identical, the pizza in Italy will usually taste better than American pizza because the pizza’s taste is influenced by our perception of food within these destinations.

IP\_Connectivity Project:

The project was created in 36 hours during the 2019 Queen’s Hackathon. The project’s goal was to create a heat map detailing the connectivity of a city’s network. Once the data was collected, the data was mapped onto a heat map providing the reader with a friendly graphic of the best internet spots in the city. The program was automated from the time the user inputs the city name until the heatmap is written to memory. The data enables ISPs to tend to poorly affected areas and possibly steal competitors’ clients who provide poor service.

Analysis of Baseball Strategy:

Baseball is a sport played by two types of individuals: the players and the statisticians. After the publication of Michael Lewis’s Moneyball, the sport has evolved into a game oriented in statistical analysis and evidence-based decision making. Players are no longer selected solely on one’s intuition. Today’s game now requires an extensive look into a player’s past performance. Individuals who were overlooked by conventional scouting methods are no longer overlooked by a robust analysis based in math.

The project looked to examine the basic statistical measures that dictate the outcome of a baseball game. Furthermore, it analysed other indicators that may not be as obvious. First, a baseline model was created to determine the best predictors of a winning team. Second, there was an attempt to show the impact of the team payroll and fan attendance on winning percentage. Finally, there was an attempt to identify the impact of ‘Slugging’ strategies on a team’s ability to win games. The knowledge acquired from the models yielded valuable information indicating the likelihood of a team to win.

ICO Success:

Accurately predicting if a given ICO will successfully reach its funding goal would be extremely valuable for both potential investors and the organizers of the ICO itself, as noted in the “Business Implications” section. However, unlike for traditional financial securities or even more established cryptocurrencies, there is relatively minimal quantitative data available for ICO tokens on which to base investment decisions due to the premature nature of the firms raising funds and of the cryptocurrency market in and of itself. Due to this financial ambiguity, ICO tokens, perhaps unlike larger established coins, are heavily influenced by attention and marketing surrounding the ICO. But, without any proven measures to track a coin’s popularity, pre-ICO investors must rely on accumulated knowledge and domain expertise to decipher probable ICO success and relative success as compared to other offerings.

With this in mind, the goal of this project was to create a model predicting whether an ICO will hit its funding goal or not, based on online sentiment towards the ICO, and characteristics of the ICO itself. The outcome of the model for a given ICO would thus be a binary classification of whether or not an ICO will hit its goal. An important distinction must be made here between an ICO’s “hard cap” and “soft cap.” A hard cap is the maximum target amount of funds an ICO will receive (above which funds will be returned to investors) while a soft cap is a far lower target which if not achieved results in all contributed funds being returned to investors and the cancellation of the project (Coinist, 2018). As a result soft caps are typically set extremely low by ICOs, and investors generally view a project's ability to hit its hard cap as a better signal of future success. Hence, this model defines ICO success as hitting the hard cap, not soft cap.

Data from the online forum Reddit was used as a proxy for overall sentiment facing a token, due to the platform’s immense popularity within the cryptocurrency community. While other sources such as Twitter or private forums may also influence sentiment, these have the potential to have a more biased outlook due to their individual-based nature. The organization of Reddit content is also conducive to sentiment analysis: user posts and comments about the same topic are grouped into “sub-reddits” which can easily be scraped (most notable tokens would have their own subreddit). Further, comments are “up-voted” and “down-voted” by users to create an aggregate proxy for popularity within the community. Characteristics of each ICO were obtained directly from their respective white papers.