January 3, 2016

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Ms. Jenn Vanden Elzen
Shopify

Dear Ms. Elzen,

Before shipping off to another country for university, I had no idea how much I could enjoy learning, and how strongly I would be shaped by the experience of attending an Ivy League institution. Now, I am only grateful that the opportunity I have been afforded has broadened and deepened my skill sets as thoroughly as it has, and given me such a passionate interest in technology and business. It is because of that passion that I ask you to consider my application for the position of Shopify Developer Intern for Summer 2016.

As you may see from my attached resume, I have devoted considerable time developing both technical and interpersonal skills. I am the Control Systems Lead for the Penn Aerospace Club, a role which allows me the unique opportunity to develop software to allow for the safe and predictable descent of personally-launched balloons descending from near space. Additionally, I attended my first Hackathon this past September at PennApps, the world's largest college Hackathon. I have since travelled to both Harvard and Yale to compete in their respective competitions, and have earned a spot on the organizing board for the upcoming PennApps which entails organizing and procuring the hardware for the multi-thousand person biannual event.

Hackathons have provided me with the opportunity to develop several personal projects. YHack (Yale's) saw the inception of fiNYC, a data visualization tool aimed at NYC business owners that allowed them to infer where their customer base originated most densely by analyzing millions of nodes of taxi data. Currently, I am working on a negamax-based Chess program, which I am developing with the intention of being easily extensible to chess variants, such as Fairy Chess, as well as other similar board games.

I am incredibly interested in the possibility of working with technology professionals at Shopify. Learning about Shopify's quarterly Hack Days only cemented my opinion of Shopify as a vibrant and enjoyable place to work and develop as an coder and person. As an eager, bright student who is passionate about technology and thrives in a team setting, I believe I would be a strong addition to the intern program.

I invite you to learn more about me by both considering my resume and viewing my website at owainwest.me. I would be grateful for any opportunity to speak in person, and would be available at your disposal. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Owain West