**Tell us a little about yourself?**

* 4th year student studying the bachelor and masters of engineering program
* I enjoy problem solving, working a teams and programming is my passion

**What is your greatest weakness?**

I sometimes have trouble asking for help. At work especially, I want to seem self-sufficient and smart so I would not ask my supervisor or mentor for advice. While the results were not disastrous, I realised that I could have done tasks much quicker and more efficient if I had just asked for assistance.

From this, I learnt that while independences can be a strong suite, seeking guidance is not only sign of strength but also essential for growth and efficiency. No one has all the answers and diverse perspectives can lead to better solution.

**Tell me about a time you made a mistake.**

One was when I was unprepared for a meeting because I did not take into account day light savings. I would occasionally work with teams from other states and I did not take into account that they are one hour ahead. Fortunately I was not late to the meeting but I was severely unprepared. I learned a valuable lesson to double-check calendar appointments and always be sure I know the details of a meeting before going in.

**You are given a mundane task by your manager that are below your skill level- how do you go about this?**

First I will like to acknowledge that all work is important and plays a role to contributing to the objectives of the company. I’d approach the work with professionalism and complete the task to the best of my ability, even if it is simple. Once the task is completed, I will communicate with my manager in taking on more challenging work and responsibilities to ensure that I am contributing at my highest capacity.

**Assuming you are successful in getting in, what can you go about doing now in preparation and to maximise your opportunities?**

To prepare, I would start to research the startup environment of san Francisco, knowing that it is currently the best startup environment in the world. Networking would be a priority so I will begin reaching out to UQ alumni in San Francisco and also previous participants of this program to gain insights. I have a friends in San Francisco whom I just participated in the UC Berkerly AI LLM hackathon with that I would reach out to and are also very serious in the startup scene so I would ask them for opportunities. Additionally I will start designing a business card to give out and also revamping my LinkedIn profile. Furthermore, I would explore entrepreneurial workshops.

**A supervisor gives you a huge task which would usually take 3 months to do but you are only given 24 hours to complete. What do you do?**

Firstly, I will communicate with the supervisor the expectations and that the task will most likely not be possible. Doing this is important so it does not interfere with deadlines. I would not mind pulling the odd all nighter but if it is consistent and overwhelming then I will bring it up as burnt out will reduce overall performance. I would also ask help from people who have done similar tasks.

**You will be in a cramped space and people are snoring late at night. How do you deal with this?**

Open communication is important but also I would not want to put anyone on the spot. I would come prepared with earplugs or noise cancelling headphones to address the snoring issue. For space, this is more difficult as it out of my controI and I would pack minimally and be considerate of shared space.

**Describe a time you have conflict with someone senior with you?**

At work, my project lead had a very set way of managing workflow and he preferred to use a Excel as a project management tool to track tickets. In my opinion this was not most efficient method for the team and I felt there were newer and better tools available such as Jira that could streamline our processes. I talked to the project lead about this and while initially hesitant, he agreed to a trail period with the new tool. At the startup, the transition was rough as it is an unfamiliar software but over time, I think the overall workflow improved.

**Someone has assigned you mundane tasks?**

At my job at a database administrator, I was often assigned the repetitive task of checking the health of all the databases. Instead of viewing it as a setback, I developed a simple automation script that would connect to each server and pull the relevant information. This not only reduced the time taken and also minimalised errors.

**In you family who would you say is the most similar to you and how would they describe you?**

I would say my little brother I are two peas in a pod. Both of us are naturally curious and has recently graduated from high school and is also pursuing a career in software engineering. If he had to describe me, I think he would say that I am the slightly less handsome version of him who is approachable, eager to learn and have knack for turning challenges into opportunities.

**Describe a time you got given work you really didn’t want to do? What did you learn from this and how did you go about it?**

I was once given a task to write documentation for a whole codebase. This task was very tedious and something I was not excited about. It was the kind of work that you would give an intern as grunt work. However, as I delved into it, I realised the importance of clear documentation for the sustainability of the project and in the end, I gained an in-depth understanding of the entire system. It also helped me to appreciate the significance of roles that are not in the spotlight.

Dear Fi and M,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to express my gratitude for the chance to interview for the Ventures San Francisco Startup AdVenture yesterday. It was truly enlightening to delve deeper into the program's offerings and discuss my potential fit and contributions.

I also wanted to provide a quick update regarding the passport situation we touched on. I'm delighted to inform you that my new passport is currently out for delivery and should arrive within the next 2-3 business days. I'll ensure to send a scanned copy to you as soon as it's in my possession.

Thank you once again for considering my application and for the enriching discussion. I'm genuinely enthusiastic about the prospect of being part of this transformative experience and am eager to move forward in the process.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need any further information or documentation from my side.

Warm regards,

Peter Tran