**Statement of Purpose**

(who are you, what do you want? You have bachelors? You want to come to sfu and do a masters? Short and general A graduate, interested in coming to SFU to study)In the last two years of my undergraduate studies, as my passion for computing science continued to grow , it became increasingly evident to me that I wanted to continue my education at a higher level. I did not take the task of searching and evaluating potential programs of interest lightly, and after a year of (serious research of potential opp...)sifting through the space of potential opportunities available for my future, my ambitions converged on a single path – an industry-oriented program pertaining to Big Data. Big Data is not only the most exciting and rewarding field of study that I can foresee for myself(future?), but also a field (field that will challenge the limits of...)at the (current) limits of my domain expertise. While bootstrapping my solid foundation in computing science will serve me well, I know that this powerful, (progressiv, ever-changing)fast moving field will (challenge)force me to adapt in new ways, adopt new perspectives, and overcome challenges of unprecedented magnitude. Upon investigating the Big Data program at SFU, I knew I had found the program best suited to expose me to leadership and guidance in overcoming (actual, real life, current)real-big data challenges facing our world today.

(I believe that a highly...)One highly appealing attribute of the Big Data program for me, is the fact that it is industry-oriented as opposed to research-oriented. (I understand that ) The (Dramatic)explosive rate at which cutting edge big data research is being conducted is not (being)matched by the rate at which it is being implemented in industry. There is a growing need for specialized big data engineers in all sectors of society. Although I am fascinated with the research side of Big Data, (I feel that currently the role..)it appears to me that, at this time, the role of the practitioner is not only more valuable(to who?), but also more (I feel?)exiting(For me) than that of a big data researcher. The explosive rate at which cutting edge big data research is being conducted is not matched by the rate at which it is being implemented in industry. There is a growing need for specialized big data engineers in all sectors of society. I spend much of my free time investigating groundbreaking big data research, and it is my dream to be a (Better Word?)medium through which these new discoveries can be leveraged to solve real world problems.

Throughout my undergraduate career, I have been exposed to an incredibly diverse set of technical domains, with software engineering and pure math as particular strengths. I have worked on a multitude of technical projects, both as an individual and as a team (member). (Tense)These have ranged from re-implementing(tense)(tation of..) the distributed social network *Diaspora* using python with the django web-framework, to a 3d modeling project built to assist a PhD student who was studying how gender has an effect on hand gestures made while story telling. (New thought – new paragraph)

The two most fascinating classes that I completed in my undergraduate degree were Machine Learning and Probabilistic Graphical Models. Both classes were research oriented and involved a group project. In the (in machine learing,)former my group implemented an instrument recognition classifier to label audio tracks by the instruments they contain. in the (PGM)ladder my group attempted to implement a classifier which, given only EEG data, is(was? Would be?) able to determine if a subject has the intention of movement. These classes (expanded my perspecitve, and assisted my understanding of how pow..)opened my mind to understanding how powerful big data solutions can be, and the potential impact that they will have on the future of society.

Since graduating university, I have made a (concerted, indevered to continue...)strong effort to continue my education via various disciplines. I have engaged in activities such as contributing to open source software, reading books, and completing online courses ranging in topics from Deep Learning and Blockchain Technology to Complex Analysis and Financial Modeling. I have also been (also put, also worked on)putting effort into enhancing my workflow, and optimizing my use of computational tools. For example,...) I have (strived to... [no been]))been striving to reach a higher proficiency with Linux operating systems and the command line. I have also transitioned to using Vim as a (capitalize?)programming editor, which to the unfamiliar, is no trivial task. After years of practical experience with many (varying)different stacks of technologies, different levels of abstraction, (and embracing)tackling fundamentally different problems, the breadth of my experience has allowed me to begin to see a big picture in computing. I expect the gains in my career over the next five years to be nothing short of the last five.(! maybe)

I (would like to)want to be able to use the most powerful modern tools to solve problems. It is apparent to me that Big Data solutions are the most powerful tools coming out of the science, technology, and business pipeline, and (i believe) this program is the (path for me to under...)smoothest path to understanding these tools and how to apply them. I am certain that due to my personal motivations, passion and prerequisite skills, I am an ideal candidate for the Professional Masters program in Big Data at Simon Fraser University. Please consider me as a potential student for this most exciting opportunity.

Shawn Anderson