

Introduction

Hey IGN team, I'm Josh Mei, a current second-year student at Columbia University studying a dual-BA in Computer Science and Economics and an avid fan of your team, this industry, and the products that you help deliver. From staying at the frontiers of technological development and their practical innovations, to the continuous engagement of the theory and creativity behind it, Computer Science in my life has gone from an interest to a probable career choice, and eventually now evolving into a genuine passion of mine.

Beyond the curricular, I'm an outdoorsman, an avid Clippers fan, and both outgoing and an introvert. My personality is some mashup of team sports, creative problem solving, and dreaming with an eye on the stars.

And perhaps along a more relevant strain, an introduction of mine cannot be complete without mentioning my interest in gaming and popular culture. To wit, if you were to tell the story of my childhood and teenage years, it would be irresponsible and incomplete to not mention IGN. Whether it's waiting in anticipation for the Game of the Year to be announced (which has introduced me to some of my favorite games to this day!), reading up on the wikis and universe building of all my favorite games (spawning my lifelong passion for my personal favorite games: the Fire Emblem series), or simply keeping up with the latest and greatest in nerdism (of which I consider myself a proud member), IGN played a prominent role in my childhood. I can confidently say that I don't think I would be the same gamer, nor the same person, that I am without your team and the content that you have produced.

Playing games like Pokemon, or Fire Emblem, or Assassin's Creed, engaging with this content, always led me to ask some questions. Foremost among them? "Why did these developers choose to design the game this way?" and "How did they do this?". And while the games that I'm playing with today may go by different names – names such as Data Structures, or Game Theory, or Systems Programming – those same questions remain.

And now, those questions have brought me to you. I believe the opportunity to work on tangible and impactful engineering projects that will be seen and used by the broader community make the Code Foo program the ideal place for me to continue learning and growing. And, between my willingness to self-teach and hunger to succeed in this field, combined with my skills in the domains of leadership, communication, and curiosity, I believe I'm the ideal candidate for this role as well. Especially in the context of a team, my ability to listen, facilitate, and spark innovation can help IGN continue to be the creative leader of the entertainment industry. Whether it be researching a concept or language to be able to hit the ground running, or it's the extra overtime hours needed to complete a deliverable on time, my willingness to devote my

schedule to this team will make me the ideal candidate, participant, and alumni of this program. Truthfully, I hope to convey, if nothing else, my genuine interest in this position, appreciation for this company, and passion for this field.

Regardless, thank you for your time and consideration, and I wish the absolute best of luck for you and your team.

