Know The Self

Steven Jirjis is a Client Services Specialist for Web Products. Steven began working in the IT field in 2012 as an IT & Database Assistant to the Network Infrastructure & Database Administrator. After completing his Associates degree in Information & Communication Technology, this was his first role in the IT field. Steven worked very closely with the Network Infrastructure & Database Administrator, as the IT department was made up of both of two individuals. After just a few months in this position, Steven’s manager decided to leave the company, leaving Steven as the only individual in the IT department. This thrusted Steven into a role with much more responsibility than know-how he had at the time, but was dedicated to applying all the knowledge he had, and learning as fast as he could. At this time, Steven had some network infrastructure knowledge and skills, but database skills with nearly non-existent.

For over a year, Steven remained the single individual responsible for the IT department. He, out of his own pocket, decided to take night and evening courses to learn about Database Administration. This, along with many hours of overtime and more hours at home doing independent research, truly demonstrated a desire to learn, grow, and interest in programming. He had no problem staying up late to finish a project. There was much excitement when he finally got used to the SQL syntax and was able to create reports the executive director had been asking for. At this point, Steven’s employer had no doubt about his dedication and interest, and decided to change his job role to Database Specialist, while they looked look hire someone to maintain the network infrastructure. For the next two and a half years, Steven focused on developing his SQL ad programming skills, and loved every bit of his job.

Being thrusted into the role he was, and dedicating his efforts to becoming great at that role, showed Steven what is possible programming. One of his greatest desires and feats while programming SQL was building tools to make the lives of his coworkers easier. Automating processed through software, replacing many manual processes that used to be. He failed his programming course in high school, and never though he would enjoy programming ever again. The path he took to becoming a developer is nothing short of unconventional, but he couldn’t be happier with this line of work. Steven learned that not doing well at something at one point in life, has no bearing on if one could be successful or enjoy doing that same thing at a later point in life.

Steven desired to expand his programming knowledge beyond SQL, and decided to move into his current role just over a year ago. His current employer works with many different technologies, including those of the web. Looking to gain exposure and not knowing exactly where to focus his studies, this company was a great place to gain exposure. After some time, he decided web technologies interested and inspired him the most. This began his education journey, which ultimately led him to where he is current studying Full Stack Web Development at UCSD Extension.