

Monday, February 10, 2014

Rajesh Rao
IBM
Victoria, BC

Re: S14 Software Developer SWG-0633647

Dear Mr. Rao,

I am thrilled with the opportunity to work at IBM, a company at the forefront of technological innovation. As a Cognitive Systems student, seeing products such as IBM's Watson is very inspiring, and motivates me to pursue my studies beyond classroom walls. What truly excites me about technology is how dynamic it is. Because this ever-changing nature requires constant adaptation and adjustment, it demands a striving beyond adequacy, and inherently, fosters growth and progress. I aspire to be a part of your team for this very reason. Nothing excites me more than the opportunity to challenge preconceptions and reach beyond all that I currently know to be, and to work at IBM, a company at the forefront of this movement.

In my previous co-op work term at Appnovation Technologies, I effectively contributed to two of the largest high-profile projects the company had ever put out, working primarily with the Drupal Open Source Stack, PHP, JavaScript, and interfacing with MySQL. Through these 8 months, I grew proficient in Agile Software Development Practices, as well as version control tools such as Git. Recently, I participated in a 48-hour Think Global, Hack Local Community Hackathon. My 12-person team worked with community partner Neil Squire Society and created a Speech-Assisted Math Game, written in Java, aimed towards children with disabilities and literacy and numeracy difficulties. My contribution to the project was in leading the team in an Agile-y/scrum-like software development process, to ensure completion and delivery by the end of the 48 hour time period, and in developing the UI for the game menu, utilizing the Swing library, which I had to learn quickly over the course of the hackathon. Other projects I have completed include a web-based cognitive assessment memory task game written using JavaScript (jQuery) and themed with HTML5 and CSS, a Clue board game assistant Intelligent Agent written in Prolog utilizing dynamic databases, and a mapping mobile application for Android phones in Java.

Currently, I am working on a research project that seeks to gain insight on how technology can provide support in clinical decision making. I will be implementing classification machine learning algorithms using the Weka (Java) framework to improve a verbal behaviour analysis application, and outputting the data using CTools Dashboard (JavaScript). In my spare time, I try to further my learning by taking online courses in Python.

My background in music and the performing arts has honed my creativity, innovation, and improvisation when things don't go necessarily as planned. I am a keen, quick learner, who works well in a team environment. My positive and friendly approach, as well as my social skills will be highly useful to this position. I have experience organizing events/campaigns across a number of schools/organizations.

Included in this application is my resume for your perusal. I am very interested in being a member of your dynamic team and would be very glad to come for an interview to personally introduce myself to you. I can be contacted through the UBC Science Co-op office. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely yours,
Tricia Jose