Questions to ask (S & C) -

The position says application development intern, but what exactly I am going to be responsible for? What platform I am going to work on

What are your expectations from me as a software engineer? What jobs will I be responsible for

Is there any training I am required to do prior to joining?

Whom am I going to work for? - With my supervisor - in the job posting.

Am I going to be working in teams?

What is the dress code - strictly formal or kind of casual?

How long until I hear back from you?

Are there opportunities for full-time employment after master’s degree based on performance?

**Questions to answer -**

**Tell me about yourself –**

I am a senior in DePaul university currently pursuing degree in Computer Science. I plan to pursue my master’s degree in Data Science and right now I am considering other career paths. I work for XR Trading and I am in the data infrastructure team where we engineer data related problems. I developed tools to track the profit and loss and currently, I closely work with the accounting team on automating the monthly profit and loss statements. Loading valuable financial data is also a part of my work. Currently, I am handling the migration of vendor statements, creating new loaders, stored procedures, and automating the new files. We follow an agile style methodology, and we have biweekly sprints, which has really helped me develop agile skills. It has made me well-verse in Git, Python and SQL.

export mail. I worked on a couple projects during January and February. I created an Eight puzzle game that uses 6 different searching strategies to search for the goal state. I also created a dots and boxes game using minimax algorithm, that switches turn between the computer (AI) and the player (human).

In my part time, I code and try to solve the hacker rank problems, so that I could get more familiar with coding and improve my programming skills. I’m really passionate for technology, it makes me want to learn more as technology constantly changes, it motivates me to push myself and inspire others to use technology in a way that makes a difference.

Currently, I am looking for a full time job opportunity where I could gain skills to design and develop software, improve its performance and also manage the risks related to them, and which is why I am really excited about this opportunity with Discover Financial Services.

**Who you are? -** I am a junior in DePaul university currently pursuing degree in Computer Science. I plan to pursue my master’s degree in Data Science. I work for United Airlines as a Cargo agent where I handle the export mail and work alongside the United employees. I’m really passionate for technology, and if you’re passionate about something, it makes you learn more, it makes you push yourself and also helps you inspire others.

**Why them?**

Discover gives me a great platform to showcase my technical and creative problem-solving skills that will be used to design and develop optimal software. In today’s world, many people live in debt, maybe it is a credit card debt, or bank loan debt, or student loan debt, and it tells us that a lot of people have problems with money management. I saw on Discover’s home page about its mission which is to help people spend money smarter, manage debt better, and save more to achieve a brighter financial future, and it is one of the main reasons why I want to work for Discover. Working with discover will allow me to create technical solutions in the future which will financially help clients. Also, Discover is continuously growing to provide best quality services to its client and making finance easier for them, and I definitely want to be a part this exponentially growing company and help them shape the future of finance.

So, given XR gives me an opportunity to choose from a wide range of asset classes like Foreign Exchange, Agricultural products, and treasuries. XR is growing year by year and trying to find solutions that provide best quality services to its client and make trading easier for them. As we all know that technology is continuously evolving, and XR uses those emerging technologies to enhance the existing trading strategies. It also offers internships to help the freshers get real life experience, and it

I would definitely love to be a part of this exponentially growing company and would definitely love to help them shape the future of trading.

It gives me a chance to enhance my programming skills by getting real life experience and an opportunity to work directly under a supervisor.

**Why should I hire you? – what makes you a great candidate for this position?**

**I know that there are many candidates for this position, but I think I will be a great fit for this position because I will put in my passion for technology in a way that makes real difference. I know that Discover focuses more on providing best quality services and unique solutions to its customers, and as a Software Developer, I would try my best to understand the client requirements and help design effective software in a timely manner. I have always worked to deliver great results. At my past job, without any knowledge of the business, I managed to migrate the monthly vendor statements, create new loaders and stored procedures for the same. I increased the efficiency of**

At my past job, I was working as a hold off agent before and I handled the hold off carts that came back, and I decreased the number of hold offs by 15%, and that’s why they promoted me to cargo agent where I increased the export mail efficiency by 20%. So, whatever work I do, I promise to deliver best results and I know that I will be a great asset to your company. So, this job has really helped me improve my communication skills, since I had to talk to my coworkers.

my communication skills have really helped me achieve the best, since I had to work with other people and make sure everything is okay.

I work to deliver best results, and plus I am sure I will be a great addition to the team.

**If I get this job, I would treat every day as an opportunity to learn. My technical skills combined with my great communication and creative thinking skills will prove an asset to your company.**

**Describe your previous work experience?**

I worked at the United Airlines as a Mail Cargo Agent. I was hired for taking care of the hold off carts – that are the carts that do not make it to the plane. And do the inventory of the outbound carts. After 6 months, I got promoted as Cargo Agent, where I took care of all the export carts and cans. I ensured allgm the paperwork for each cart was properly completed and all the information was correct. May there be some problems with the cart number, flight number, flight time, flight destinations, or the cart weight, and the number of pieces in the cart, I had to correct it using a scanner, or else send the cart of reweighing. My job was really time sensitive as I had to had all the paperwork 2 hours prior to the plane take-off time, and I had to submit those tags to the United Employee for the mail to reach to its destination. From this job, I learned time management skills and organizational skills, as my work was really time sensitive.

**What are your strengths?**

I possess excellent communication skills and work really hard to meet the deadlines. I am good at time management, and multi-tasking. At United Airlines, my work is time-sensitive. I make sure, I have all cart sheets with me before the flight gets locked out and check for any mistakes simultaneously.

**Why software engineering?**

Technology is constantly changing to make our lives better. Career in technology gives us a variety of options to work for such as business, education, medicine and healthcare. As technology evolves, it gives me an opportunity to learn new things. Innovations like artificial intelligence, automation, robotics and quantum computing are making the world better and I want to be a part of it.

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

Well I’m really excited by this position at Discover because in five years, I see myself having a master’s degree in data science and fortunately working as a data scientist at some company and take a lead on some projects. ]]

I know that’s something I’ll have an opportunity to start from here and I’ll do the best I can.

I’m also really excited to take on more managerial responsibilities in the next few years and potentially even take the lead on some projects.

**What would you do if you got the job?**

The first thing I would do is I’ll get to know the office, the people I am going to work with, get familiar with all the technologies Discover uses.

**Explain the time you worked in teams.**

**Currently I work in a team with 7 engineers,**

I’ve worked with teams many times. I went to demon hacks hackathon sponsored by DePaul. At that time, it was my first year, and so I did not have a group to go with, I went there, and I met few people in one room, and got into a group with them.

**Give an example of when you had to give more than 100% to get the job done?**

**Give an example of a situation where you had to step up and be the team leader?**

**How do you handle stress with clients?**

First of all, I always make sure, the clients have not misunderstood me. I try to clear any misunderstandings and re explain them the problem to avoid clarification problems, and I tell them about the solution I’ll use to tackle that problem.

**How comfortable are you having conversations and developing relations with people?**

So, for me, I’m pretty much comfortable to talk to everyone, if the other person is willing to talk to me too. Whenever we are put in groups, I’ve noticed that I’m always the first one to start the conversation and ask people about how to approach to given problem. I ask their opinions before, and then I give my opinion, and then we work through the problem. So, I do not have a problem of talking to people, I will talk to everyone I work with, unless they do not talk to me. At United Airlines, I knew almost all people working on the floor, I talked to everyone, but some 2 girls chose not to reply, so even I did not bother.

**Do you think the position is right for you?**

**Yes, I do think Software Engineering Intern is right for me, as it mainly focuses on developing software according to the system needs, and my OOP skills, and programming languages like python and java will help me excel in your requirements.**

**Work with people I can really learn from.**

I worked in a team during my final project for Object Oriented Programming course. We were successful in creating a Christopher Columbus game using java GUI. Firstly, we brainstormed the design patterns and created a UML design. Working in a team helped me recognize the strengths and weaknesses of each team member and we worked accordingly on our strong principles. As a team member, I understand that communication is really important to share your ideas and thoughts with others and come up with a solution together.

I would always prefer working in teams rather than working alone. Because working in teams helps you gain more knowledge, and it is also a great opportunity to put your skills to work.

**Projects –**

**What was the hardest project you’ve ever came across? What role did you play?**

By far my hardest project was the Eight Puzzle game. It wasn’t a project but an assignment as long as a project. All the other assignments I’ve been given were assigned with the structure and the base code, but for this I had to work on it from scratch and figure out data structures I will use, figure out the implementation of 6 different searches based on my Node, and also working individually made it a little harder than the other projects.

**Space shooter –**

This was a space shooter game and I was responsible to make the entities using blender. I made the enemy and meteoroid objects. I also wrote some basic code to set up the entities.

**Christopher Columbus –**

The basic introduction to our project pirate ships attacking your ships while you are trying to reach the treasure box.

Implemented different images and used the strategy and visitor design patterns to control their movement, power ups and power downs. I worked on some part of multithreading. The platform we used was JavaFX since we worked with GUIs.

This project heavily applies the principles of Object-Oriented Programming.

**Guess Game -**

It was a guess game where user bids money and guesses a number. If the number is right, the bid amount gets doubled. It had two parts, Python was used to play the game, and solidity smart contract had the functions to run the game. Python used the solidity smart contract from the web to play the game. I was responsible for writing the smart contract in solidity and making a platform that plays the game.

**Closing the interview –**

What are the next steps?

Thank you for your time. I look forward to talking to you again.

**Where have you previously worked and describe your experiences?**

*I don't know enough now to give specifics, but I know how I will find out. The first thing I would do would be to get around to meet the team and other major stakeholders in order to understand the lie of the land. I will also want to understand the company strategy as it applies in my area. I will subsequently develop a plan for rapid action. I have found that it is important to show both understanding and positive action, and I would seek to deliver significant results within the first three months along with a plan for a steady continuation into the future.*

Of course, not all jobs are grand and strategic, and your statement may be simply one of compliance and collaboration, although the message of delivering value is basically the same.

*I like to contribute and fit in. I will need to learn the system. My first goal will be to get up to speed as quickly as possible so I can be out there, talking with customers.*

And never forget to slip in indications of your motivation and ability.

*This is a challenge, I know, but that's just what I like. I thrive in tough times and I know I can turn around your plant.*