Michael Plasmeier

362 Memorial Drive

Cambridge, MA 02139

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Steven Rohall and Li-Te Cheng

Researchers

IBM Research

1 Rogers Street

Cambridge, MA 02139-1203

Dear Mr. Rohall and Mr. Cheng:

I am interested in your web application developer internship position which you posted to MIT’s UPOP job list.  In particular I am interested in building a next-generation discussion system.

I am both a management and computer science major, with a particular interest in how people communicate and collaborate.  I’ve paid close attention to this where I’ve worked in the past, and I would like to formalize these thoughts at IBM Research this summer.

I believe that I can bring a great deal of experience to the project. I’ve been thinking about how people communicate for a long time.  The first website I built was a question and answer site; it never went anywhere, but it got me interested in the field.  In 2007, when the Facebook platform first came out I built an application, GridView, which quickly rose to be one of the top 100 apps on Facebook, peaking at 1.3 million users.  My first year at MIT, I worked at the MIT Media Lab on a research project to see if seeing what your friends buy influences what you buy.  Last summer, I worked at German national railway, Deutsche Bahn, designing the user interface for one of their new iPhone apps and prototyping a GIS service to pull data out of silos.  Last January, I worked at a financial software firm where we thought about idea marketplaces (my boss actually worked at IBM Research in the 90s).

All of these roles required me to work with a team, but in some cases I was also responsible for managing a team. Three years ago, I led a team to produce 100 episodes for cable television. In addition, I managed a group of programmers’ contributions to an open-source project I directed.

I am not just interested in designing the systems, but I can also build them. I have experience working with jQuery and Django, as well as extensive experience with PHP, HTML, JavaScript, CSS, and MySQL.

I hope that we can get some time to talk about whether I would be a good fit for the summer at IBM.

Sincerely,

Michael Plasmeier