I worked for the Asia Pacific Team (APAC) in Expedia and my main project was to help port over some of their websites to a new Java Platform. My biggest assignment was to build a service prototype for our overseas partner company to develop on. Since this was the first service being built using the new platform in our team, I had to learn most of the technology by reading up and talking to other developers in the platform team. I also had a mentor assigned to me who helped me through setting up and getting started on the project. He helped me get the basic insight on the organization of the company and the basic structure of the old platform, which was necessary to make design decisions even with the new platform. Also, the regular meetings that we had with other project teams helped me understand the overall picture and status of the project.

Over the past two years, I had read some theoretical stuff in systems analysis and design, but coming to Expedia gave me the important practical exposure in these areas. My focus was more into coding and I soon learnt how important it is to understand requirements, write proper documentation. Also, I learnt the importance of communication and coordination with other team members and other teams. Instead of being mere code-oriented, it thought me how to become process oriented. My mentor helped me understand the importance and details of the development methodology that Expedia follows. Now that I understand the criticality of documentation, I’ll focus more on this area as pointed out by my mentor. Though I realized that whatever one reads theoretically might not be in practice in its absolute form, Expedia clearly demonstrated a feasible implementation of Software Engineering that we studied.

The work environment was amazing and it was really great working with all the people in the company. They were always willing to help and interacting regularly with them helped me learn a lot about the working culture in a company like Expedia. The only down side I had was that there were only 3 other interns for the entire semester.
My manager taught me the importance and coordination required with Test teams. He taught me the entire test-driven development process that he wanted this team to follow. He gave me an opportunity to learn more thoroughly by asking me to develop a component for the test team as well.

One fantastic thing is the way Expedia takes care of the accommodation, transportation and other activities which would normally be some of the most difficult aspects when an intern joins, particularly when the person is from a far-off state as was the case with me. As mentioned earlier, having more interns would have made it more enjoyable in sports and other social activities. Of the two options that Expedia offered, I chose to live in Oakwood, Seattle. Living in downtown provided the convenience of having multiple cuisines and shopping malls right next door. Being next the Key Arena, we also regularly went for NBA games after work hours. I also played soccer three times a week and got opportunities to mingle with employees of other companies.
Jong Hwi Lee  
College of Engineering, Cornell University  
Major: Computer Science  
Period: May 21, 2007 ~ January 09, 2008 (summer & fall 2007)  
Company: Expedia, Inc.

**Job Summary**

I was assigned to Platform Infrastructure Development Team in E3 Platform, which administers the whole internal software architecture of the company and also creates the basis other applications run on. In it, I worked as a software design engineer intern. There were total nine developers in development team, and around 50 in the whole platform team.

After one month of training, I worked on three projects. On every project I was expected to educate myself by making intensive technical investigations. They were challenging but not overwhelming. Expedia’s relatively free environment also helped me in getting through my co-op. There seemed to be little or no notion of ‘red line’ among co-workers, and being an intern never put me into disadvantage in communication. Whenever I had a suggestion or sought for advice, people were eager to talk with me.

Although I primarily used Java at work, the scale of the language was much bigger. CS 211 at Cornell was far too elementary for the job, which requires wide background knowledge as well as the language skill itself. In addition to Java grammar, I had to be familiar with many useful enterprise tools and other theoretical concepts, such as contexts, configurations and design patterns. For instance, the first project required a good command on the fundamentals of network protocols and their usage to build a SOAP processor.

The company was located in Bellevue, WA, right next to Seattle. It provided a great number of recreational activities to be enjoyed after work. Interns were also welcome to take part in the company’s events, which ranged from talk with executives of
the company to parties in local landmarks. Other major cities like Vancouver were only a few hours away. However, it was very difficult to travel around without a car.

About housing, I lived in a company-subsidized apartment. Between in Seattle and in Bellevue, I chose the one in Bellevue downtown because it was closer to the company and had a direct bus to work. In terms of location and facility, it was the best choice; the apartment was fully furnished, and Bellevue downtown had easy access to shops, malls, and transportation.

Overall, life at Expedia was fresh and extremely rewarding. My only possible regret was that I could not rent car through the company because I did not have driver’s license; otherwise, I would have more enjoyed what Seattle area can provide.

 Supervisor Sign:  

 Date: 1-9-08

 Student Sign: 

 Date: 10/20/08