A. Co-op Work Assignment

I was assigned to server team of iControl. The team provided the company with server-side software support. The major projects I worked on included an Android camera project, which was a proof-of-concept project for possible future development, and a compliance test automation project, for which I improved the project with new frameworks and added more features like Graphical UI. The training was succinct. The supervisor introduced me to the office and took me a tour of office on the first day of work. And later on, I learned through the assigned tasks and obtained much valuable help from co-workers in the team. The supervisor and other team members were really approachable and helpful.

B. Assessment of Learning and Development

My working tasks were tightly connected with my major and my career goal as a software developer. Through Co-op opportunity, I experienced the professional culture in technical field and really enjoyed it. The casual, vibrant, and friendly environment reminded me of school often and pushed me to work hard but also have fun through the learning process. This position provided me with the provision I needed for my future career decision, and it reaffirmed my determination of becoming a software developer. On the other hand, the position also influenced dramatically in my personal development. I learned to schedule ahead and prepare myself well for everyday work.

If I have chance to go through the same experience again, I would change nothing but push myself to know more about everyone in the office from the first day of my work. At beginning I was afraid to reach out to people because I was intimidated by the fact that everyone was so professional. But later on I found it’s so much fun talking with co-workers and I hoped that I had started that much earlier.

C. Life outside of Co-op

For housing, I got recommendations from my office by emailing to ask if they have any suggestions on housing. Also I found many helpful resources from Stanford housing lists. For transportation, I definitely think it would be easier if you have a car in the bay area. But public transportation like Caltrain and local bus service can definitely work if you stay for short period. Bay area is a place where many Cornell engineers work, so it’s actually easy to find some upperclassmen if you try to reach out. Though I didn’t work out often, but the company did offer the gym pass for me.
D. Evaluation

The best feature of this job was that it truly took me into the real world and I learned so much out of it, way much more than what I had learned before. It pushed me to use those protocols and open-source projects to support my own projects, which should be the biggest and most sophisticated projects I had ever done. I can’t really come up with any bad feature. I really appreciated this opportunity.
Co-op Work Assignment

The group I worked with was server team. The team gave software support to the entire technology section, including server side maintenance, debugging, internal tool development, etc. The major project I worked on was a job-scheduling program, which was an internal tool for operation team people to use to schedule jobs on server sites. My mentor Calvin decided the main functionalities of the program and led me through the entire development process whenever I had obstacles. Besides him, I could also approach the operation team people and other members in the server team when I had questions.

Assessment of Learning and Development

The work activity was tightly related to my educational background. Because my work involved developing a web app and applying RESTful framework, it helped me to understand the network frameworks in OS course. Also it met my career interests as a software developer. The professional culture was very casual and friendly. The position really confirmed my decision on going into industry as a software developer. And also it taught me how to go along with co-workers. I pretty enjoyed my second term at iControl, so there is nothing I will do differently if I were to go through the same experience again.

Life Outside of Co-op

My suggestion on finding housing is that you can find other Cornell co-opers to stay together if possible. Also ask the company you will work with about housing advice. On transportation, I strongly suggest driving in the bay area. However, it’s also doable to take public transportation, but it is not that reliable. On weekends I usually hanged out with Cornell people I knew since many Cornell alumni work in the area. The employer did offer athletics service. The company building has a gym for employees to use.

Evaluation

The best part of the work was that it was a great process to learn. I learned so much on industry standards and improved my coding skills. The worst part might be that because the company was small to medium size, it didn’t have many other interns while I was working there, so I didn’t have people at my age in the office to talk with.