Deuce Black

9/7/21

CSCE Capstone 1

Career Plan – Beginning of the Semester

I believe for the most part I've got everything figured out for the 2-3 years after graduation, at the very least, but let me start with where I am now. In the Spring of my freshman year, just before COVID sent us home over spring break, I went to the career fair in Bud Walton arena on campus with ten copies of my resume to give out. I talked with several booths, but they all seemed robotic for the most part, until I came to the Affirma booth, where my now-boss Joel sat in cargo shorts, and I figured that was the energy I wanted to surround myself with: casual, yet intelligent. He and his wife Paula (our office administrator) asked me for my resume, and over the next two months I went through the interview process and ended up obtaining the internship at Affirma Consulting. I started out with some basic web development experience in vanilla HTML/JavaScript and an algorithmic prowess in Java, but quickly picked up AngularJS, ASP.NET Core C#, and SQL on my first project. Since then, I've worked on two other projects as well, and all three have dealt with internal Microsoft business logic and day-to-day functions such as budget upkeep. Recently, I've been focused on security and compliance in Microsoft's customer service recognition program, which is far more programmatically challenging than it likely sounds.

Through my internship with Affirma, so long as I don't mess up and get fired (which other interns have proved does in fact happen), I'm guaranteed a full-time software engineering job with them after graduation. My current plan is to take that job for either a year or until I pay off my student loan debt (which luckily isn't much considering the school I've attended; rounded up to the next time my apartment lease is up), whichever is longer. Near the end of that, I plan to job hunt in Dublin, Ireland with the hope of moving overseas into a more algorithmically challenging backend position. While web dev and C# are fine and all, I do my best work when my brain has some logic and math to figure out, so I think I'm better-suited to a backend position than anything else. Perhaps I'd end up at Google's Dublin campus working on the search algorithm or something – Dublin is a massive city, and one of the main tech centers in Europe, so with my experience and academic record I'll have no trouble finding a job.

If something comes up over in Ireland before my student loans are paid off, I may take it. I already applied for a backend checkout algorithm development position at Etsy in Dublin a few months ago (though I didn't get it, just an example of what I'm doing to work toward the future). I anticipate some challenges getting over there, especially housing, but I think it won't be anything I can't handle. All I'll need is some hard work and diligence, which I happen to have a surplus of.

There are a couple of reasons why my plan takes me overseas, and specifically to Ireland; it's not like this is some spur-of-the-moment, last-second plan or anything. First of all, I've been to Dublin before, and it felt very home-y to me. The people of Ireland are incredibly kind, and

my type of humor is practically genetic to them, which is a massive plus. Second of all, my parents and siblings recently emigrated to Germany, so Ireland will be much more convenient for visiting them (and for them to visit me) than America is. Third of all, and I don't really mean to get political here, but it's a simple fact: I'm tired of the politics of this country. In my opinion, it's falling apart as a whole, and I really don't want to be here if and when it completely dissolves. There's so much hate integrated into the roots of the country, and while there are some people trying to fix it, a disturbing number of people are trying to silence them. This move has been a long time coming despite my youth, and my dad advised me to make it while I was young so I didn't have an entire adult life to move over with me like he did when they moved this past summer.

After all that is done, I'll probably just cruise with whatever Dublin job I end up with for a while as I wait on permanent residency to be established. Once I have Irish citizenship I'll be able to move anywhere in the EU without much restriction.