INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Lucas Wycich

Graduation Semester & Year: Spring 2024
Semester & Year of Internship: Summer 2023
Major: Information Technology
Minor: N/A
Hobbies: Gaming, Archery, Exercising
Campus Activities: Esports, Information Technology Club
Future Plans/Career Goals: Aspiring Cybersecurity Engineer

Hometown:
Plum, PA

- **Internship (company/your title):**
  Wabtec, LEAD IT Intern

- **How did you find your internship?**
  Handshake

- **What were your duties?**
  Implement a chat bot to facilitate help desk functionality.

- **How many hours per week were you at your internship site?**
  40 hours per week

- **What did you enjoy most about your internship?**
  Wabtec's scale was nothing short of spectacular, as it was involved in transportation for locomotives and boats all across the world. Correspondingly, the greatest part of this internship for me was learning what it was like to work in a global business and interacting with people from everywhere. In fact, most of the team that I was placed into was international.

- **What was the most difficult aspect of the internship?**
  The most difficult part of this internship was orienting myself in such a robust workspace. Many of the other interns I was hired with shared experiences of confusion and chaos in learning procedure and behaviorisms that were expected out of an employee in a corporate world.

- **How did your experience at UPG and in the Information Technology department prepare you for your internship?**
  While most of the skills I developed over the course of the internship were new to me, there were vague references to course content that I learned as part of the Information Technology curriculum at UPG. For instance, Database Management Systems played a pivotal role in a side project I involved myself with for creating backend cloud infrastructure, and coding in SQL and Python was ever-present.

- **How has your internship prepared you for a career?**
  One of my greatest weaknesses I knew I had going into the internship was that I did not know how to communicate using business vocabulary and speak to people in a way that was accurate and efficient. However, one of the greatest discoveries that I found over the duration of my internship is that there is a stark contrast between technical language and business language. While I was able to acquire knowledge regarding business language, I was also able to anchor myself in the technical language that I was used to using with my peers, as both were equally important.

- **What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?**
Regardless of what you are doing, it is important to approach the internship with an open mind. Undeniably, orienting yourself with your work is going to be frustrating, but the feeling is only temporary. If you stick with it and devote yourself to understanding what you are working on holistically, then the rest will fall into place.

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