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Reflection Paper 2

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Internship Reflection Paper 2

Working as a coding and data intern for my second 50 hours has given me a deeper understanding of what it means to be a professional in a technical environment. Having moved beyond my first 50 hours, I have been able to take on significantly more complex and extensive tasks, which have allowed me not just to use the skills that I had learned in my first 50 hours, but also to develop entirely new skills sets. Each of these tasks has solidified my understanding of the values and skills that constitute an internship or job in the coding and data field.

In my second 50 hours, I was given much more extensive and independent types of tasks. My biggest contribution during this time was designing and developing a web scraper that captured an entire organizational database. This task required a lot of planning and understanding of the nature of the data itself, on top of writing clean, functioning code that can handle a high volume of data without crashing. The sense of fulfillment that came after completing this task remains one of the most powerful of my

internship so far, as this project allowed me to understand the incredible difference that a well-designed tool can make to how an organization gathers and collects its data.

My contributions during this time also involved preserving and updating the organization's code spaces. This task involved ensuring the organization's existing code spaces remained functional and up to date, as other professionals relied on these code spaces to continue their projects. I also identified and addressed various issues within the applications that the organization relied upon. In cases where errors were encountered, I systematically went through each error to find its origin. Many errors often required me to understand how applications and code interacted with each other before coming up with a solution.

The value of problem-solving is the most significant skill I learned during this second set of my internship hours. Moreover, adaptability and quick thinking also became crucial when the scraping tool failed multiple times upon its first implementation. These skills were similarly required when maintaining the code spaces, which revealed a few compatibilities that needed to be researched and resolved before the code space could be correctly maintained. Each of these challenges has shown me that solving a problem systematically is the best way to overcome challenges, while utilizing any collective knowledge available, including the knowledge from my internship supervisor.

Aside from work completed related to coding tasks, I also completed research on opposing political party members in direct support of the organization's goals. This task involved a high degree of attention to detail, exercising critical thinking, and being able to

condense significant amounts of data into functional findings that would serve the needs of those who would ultimately be receiving access to these findings. This task also sheds some light on how data research and coding can be conducted outside of technical environments, while still being relevant to, and helping, organizations within more traditional settings. My exposure to work such as this has shown me that these skills also have versatility and help organizations in ways that many people may be unaware of.

In reflecting upon the learning objectives that I set for myself, I feel that I have made excellent progress in further developing my skills over the course of this period of my internship. My Python programming skills have significantly improved during this time. Moreover, my skills related to managing coding environments have also improved significantly, as well as my experience when it comes to troubleshooting application errors with an analytical mindset. Furthermore, the research element of my internship remains a further diversifying factor for my skill set, as well as demonstrating to me its potential in relation to non-technical goals while further identifying how vast it truly is.

Overall, my experience completing the second 50 hours of my internship has been enriching for my future as a professional. I completed far more complex, independent, and impactful tasks than I did during my first 50 hours of work. I gained immense fulfillment from my contributions to projects with significant implications for the organization's efficiency, and I am eager to continue taking on more complex tasks as time goes on. The confidence that I developed during this period can only be channeled into my desire to continue this journey of becoming a professional in this field. I can't wait to see what lies ahead over the next few weeks!