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Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship, 2A

28 October 2016

Interview Assessment #3

Name of Professional: Jason Dooley

Profession: IT Project Manager

Company: AmerisourceBergen

Date of Interview: 24 October 2016

My third interview was in-person at a 'Gazeebo Burgers' near Mr. Jason Dooley's place of work. Mr. Dooley works as an IT Project Manager for AmerisourceBergen, a pharmaceutical distribution company. In this interview, I knew I wanted to learn more about the management aspect of the IT field and what it is like to manage people within it. While specifics into the works of Computer Science will be helpful for a future interview, I knew that some knowledge in team and project management will help me in the future, regardless of how I approach my field.

The part that stood out to me most about the interview was the intensity of the management position. When I have been a leader for an organization in the past, we often only worked on coordinating one or two tasks or events at a time, splitting a group to focus on each task. Mr. Dooley's job, on the other hand, attacks around twenty tasks at once, all involving several stages, branches, and variables. This completely blew what I knew about management before away, including how large-scale a company can be. The company was split into multiple

branches, with branches within those branches; everything was specialized to make sure that everything was done efficiently and effectively. It split into website maintenance, ecommerce, security, business digital communication, the data warehouse, and more, all under the IT branch alone! Mr. Dooley operates mainly with the data warehouse, focusing on the collection, analysis, and presentation of data. The large scale of this process, in a way, scared me about the intensity of running a business and sectors, because things like DECA and public speaking skills are just small-scale parts of business management. In order to get anywhere close to becoming qualified to manage something as large as a section of a company or even a company as a whole, implementing IT or not, I will need to gain experience from the bottom of the company up.

There were several strategies for approaching each one of the tasks that Mr. Dooley had to execute. The one that acted as the foundation for all of the approaches was the “waterfall method” that implemented a “Solution Development Life Cycle”. Essentially, each stage is handled one by one, starting with requirement analysis and planning, then designing based around the plan, the actual building, the testing, and the transition into production. The testing process often leads the system to have to start back over at building or designing whenever it finds a problem, and this is particularly the case in IT because of the commonality of bugs in programs. Other methods take this structure and apply it into separate “sprints” where work is done in different areas, or in a more constant mode with the division of different people leading each stage. Mr. Dooley adopts each strategy in different ways in each required project in order to keep everything adaptable, using his own decision-making. That part likely was one of the most exciting parts for me, because I found that, regardless of how mundane Computer Science

careers seem to other people, projects involving computers can be extremely adaptive and able to be molded, a structure much looser and adaptable than the one used in most school projects.

This interview only scratched the surface of what project managers need to be able to do, how they need to work with people, and when they need to prioritize certain variables. Although my final product will not have project management as a field, it will be implementing the skills needed for it almost all the way through. This interview has truly inspired me to look further into structures for project management and different methods for managing multiple tasks at once; I definitely will be able to put any new skills from the research to good use.