



Date: 12/11/2016

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

It gives me great pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation in favor of Mr. Rahul Ethiraj, who wishes to pursue his graduate studies at your esteemed university. Rahul and I became affiliated on a professional level when he was an intern at Cisco Systems. I was his mentor for the duration of the internship and the initial stages of his full-time employment.

During internship, Rahul was introduced to core networking technologies which included Routing, Switching, Voice, Security and Virtualization. Even though he was part of the networking team, he had developed several programs to parse the tech-support bundle and extract required information through automation. He incorporated various algorithmic techniques such as variation on CYK, LR parsers and shift-reduce in his program. This project helped Cisco save a lot of man hours which would otherwise have been spent in manually analyzing the logs. Following his example, other engineers have recently built similar programs further benefiting the company. The Director, Ramesh Kalanje, awarded him for his contribution. He was offered a full-time position because of his sincerity and talent, qualities which are indeed essential for graduate studies.

I have known Rahul to be a very intuitive and quick learner; within weeks of joining the team, he was able to grasp the concepts of UCS blade and rack mount servers, Nexus 1000v virtual switch, Network Analysis Module, Virtual Service Appliances, Colusa storage, Nexus 5000 and 7000 switches, SAN Multilayer Director Switch and protocols such as Fibre Channel and Fibre Channel over Ethernet. He could troubleshoot most of the problems and could recover the degraded network with ease. His learnings from CCNP Routing and Switching and internship training are well put to practical use in his work. The amount of hard work he devotes to his goals is remarkable. He is always eager to keep abreast of new developments in computer science and programming. He has the interest to pursue a research oriented career rather than an ordinary one.

My personal interactions with Rahul have helped me gain insight into his interest and enthusiasm for work. He speaks at length of his ideas for resolving congestion using software defined networking. He has closely worked with Cisco developers on various bugs that he has identified especially on Nexus 1000v and Nimble Storage. He has conducted various chalk talks and trainings both within and outside of the team. He is the sole person responsible for maintaining the Jive On page which is a technical internal forum for the Server Virtualization team. He is the ambassador for Foundation to Success which is a training program conducted across all teams globally. He also takes part in Corporate Social Responsibility activities. He raised a large amount of money and collected clothes and food to help the victims of Chennai floods. He is a sportive team member who comes up with innovative solutions to critical issues and does not back away from responsibility.

Rahul's academic achievements are truly impressive but his character is even more so. I recommend him strongly to the MS program at your distinguished institution. He would prove to be an asset to your university as he did with us.

Regards,

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