

Vasant Kumar

Summary

Able to approach problems with a business, technical, and user experience mindset from time spent on the business/technology side of an e-commerce website. Strong leadership and interpersonal skills.

Great technical skills: adept at Java, comfortable with Unix, and experienced in other languages/technologies.

Education

Bachelor of Honours Computer Science – University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, Canada • 2009

- Undergraduate Research: Human Computer Interaction, Advisor: Professor Michael Terry (2009)
- Specializations: Software Engineering option, History minor
- Activities: Residence Orientation Leader (2006, 2007, 2008)

Professional Experience

Software Development Engineer II, Search Experience – Amazon.com, Seattle, WA • August, 2009 – October, 2011

- Received a 'Just Do It' award, the company's highest award, for launching a personal project that increased revenue by millions of dollars. Was presented by founder/CEO Jeff Bezos in front of several thousand people at the company all hands.
- Scoped, prioritized, and led an international cross team project that was requested by the CEO across Amazon's search and product pages.
- Studied analytics and used A/B testing to regularly evaluate the business/revenue impact of features on the search page. Strong understanding of usability, search and the e-commerce space.
- Engineered a variety of new features on Amazon using languages such as Java and Perl. Emphasis on scalability and performance. 2 patent applications.
- Have mentored/trained new engineers in the US, Japan, and China and have been engaged as the main point of contact for Amazon search during major site wide events.

HCI Research Assistant – University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, Canada • January, 2009 – April, 2009

- Conducted user research via interviews and field studies and developed several prototypes to explore ways to digitize environmental fieldwork for the Human Computer Interaction department.

Software Development Engineer Intern, Search Experience – Amazon.com, Seattle, WA • April, 2008 – August, 2008

- Analyzed customer behavior using Oracle and MySQL and suggested improvements to Amazon's search page to increase revenue and improve customer experience.

Software Development Engineer Intern – Sybase iAnywhere, Waterloo, ON, Canada • January, 2007 – April, 2007, September, 2007 – December, 2007

- Helped develop the CSS renderer of a mobile browser and 'AvantGo', a mobile content synchronization application, for the Blackberry using Java.