

Devesh Dayal

Internship at IgniteWorld Limited

During the summer of 2015, I interned as a software engineer at IgniteWorld Limited - a startup joint venture between Bharti Airtel, Yahoo Japan and SoftBank in India. Bharti Airtel is India's largest telecom company and together with SoftBank, they started IgniteWorld to harness the power of the internet through mobile devices. I was keen to learn more about the exciting world of mobile inter-connectivity, and so I reached out to them. After meeting with representatives and sitting an interview, I was selected to join the team! The internship extended for 14 weeks, during which I worked with the core engineering team to improve API server efficiency and implement new technologies into existing backend infrastructure. Despite being the only intern onboard the team, I worked closely with experienced developers and managers senior in the organization, and witnessed my contributions manifest themselves into the company's live production environments that affected millions of users. Not only did this necessitate quality output, but it rewarded my efforts since my own software actually ran in a real world environment and not just a development simulation!

My project was consistently intriguing and challenging, requiring out-of-the-box thinking in redesigning working infrastructure using a scalable and extensible design pattern. I was not limited to a pure software development role, as I was encouraged to work on enhancing all aspects of the company's vision and was even expected to attend meetings at varying levels of the organizational hierarchy to properly comprehend the whole picture. Perhaps the most eye-opening was learning more about the importance of organizational structure and clear communication amongst multiple teams within the company. Changes made in one sector of the project undoubtedly affected another and so conflict resolution was an important skill I honed this summer, for both people and code!

I was delighted to discover that the tech startup environment is dynamic, full of life & energy and amazingly open and receptive to ideas. With so much work going on behind the scenes it was also great that there were so many activities to keep the team motivated, like Friday evening karaoke, weekend retreats and sponsored movie tickets. This always ensured that the atmosphere in office was light and conducive to both working and socializing.

There are always new innovations made along every stage in the production line, and working at a startup means researching about each one, comparing their relative merits and ultimately deciding which to adapt to stay ahead of the game. Since IgniteWorld was still in nascent growth stages when I initially signed on, it was fascinating to watch the scope and scale of all decisions gradually expand to incorporate new additions to the overall portfolio (which was updated nearly every week!).

For students looking for a fast paced and exciting work experience, I would highly recommend looking at a technology startup venture like IgniteWorld!