

Mr. Speice

Independent Study Mentorship 2A

7 October 2019

Knowledge from a Computer Vision Specialist

Assessment 5 - Interview

**Name of Professional:** Trey Blankenship

**Title:** Software Developer

**Company:** Raytheon

**Date of Interview:** 5 October 2019

**Works Cited:**

Trey, Blankenship, Informational Interview. 5 Oct. 2019

**Assessment:**

Interviewing serves an essential role in the knowledge development process. This past weekend, I had the opportunity to conduct my first informational interview with Trey Blankenship, a software developer from Raytheon. The primary objective of the interview was to gain a deeper understanding of the career of a software developer and more about my topic of computer vision. While there are many software developers in the field of computer science, an opportunity to talk to one that has immense amounts of knowledge over the specific field of study is extremely rare and valuable.

To initiate the conversation, we started talking about the job as a software developer in general. When speaking about this, he gave lots of insight in regards to the more specific challenges and jobs in software development. This, in particular, was helpful to know because

these specifics over the career usually cannot be found online where websites mostly preface the career rather than going into too many details. Using this newly found knowledge, I now am better equipped with knowledge to use when beginning my professional career.

In the computer science world, there are two sides to every subtopic: theory and technical aspects. In the informational interview, Mr. Blankenship was able to effectively address both sides of computer vision. By addressing the theory side of computer vision, new concepts and jargon were introduced. These new terms, in turn, will be helpful in serving as a basis to continue my research via other informational interviews or databases. Additionally, when presenting research at the research showcase or final presentation night, explaining the inner workings of my work will be much easier to do because of this increased amount of knowledge.

During the actual interview, we focused primarily on the theoretical side of computer vision; however, to make to up for this, Mr. Blankenship gave me a folder full of resources that include the technical aspects. This folder will prove immensely helpful due to my limited experience in the computer vision world. Through using this folder of resources, starting a computer vision project will be easier than ever because of how it goes through the step by step process of starting from setting up an environment to advanced video and image processing. Because these resources illustrate many different features of OpenCV, optimizing my original work or final project will be much easier because of the increased amount of features that can be added to the application to increase the program performance.

Reflecting upon the interview, the experience itself revealed much about my interviewing skills. The interview flowed somewhat like a conversation; however, due to my preliminary knowledge over the topic, it was also kind of like a Q&A session. Despite this, future interviews

should flow smoother because the first informational interview really established the foundation of my knowledge. Going forward, making informational interviews more engaging for myself and the interviewee through greater preparation will be important. In doing this, I will be able to gain more from it and ultimately have a successful ISM journey.

### Interview Notes