Network Expansion

Weekly Report 9: 10/26 - 11/1

Informational Interviews provide an excellent platform to speak with professionals as well as expand one's own network through referrals.

This past week I had the opportunity to engage within my own network through an informational interview with Professor Ng at UT Dallas and expand this network through asking for referrals. In doing this, subsequent informational interviews will be easier to obtain and I will have more acquaintances I can reach out to in the future when working on projects.

The informational interview, however, did present the challenge of deciding the type of person I should be willing to seek for when expanding my network. Despite this challenge, I used prior knowledge the professor had given me regarding his lack of technical programming knowledge to request individuals that have an expertise in programming. In doing this, I developed the problem solving skill of being able to draw on prior information to create new conclusions, a skill high sought after by top software development firms. Additionally, through asking for individuals who could cover Professor Ng's technical weaknesses, I am able to better supplement my own learning as I gain knowledge that will assist in both the research phase and development phase of my project.

Reflecting for the future, I think it is important to be able to ask the right questions in order to solve a problem efficiently. Through this experience, I was able to synthesize information to request the correct assistance, a skill that will be invaluable as I continue my professional career. By gaining the skill of asking the correct questions, I empower myself for a thriving future career where I will have the proper direction on what to do. Beyond the questioning skills, I also had the opportunity to expand my network and make the future of my ISM journey easier. Interpersonal skills like these have prepared me to leverage my connections and hone my skills to over come challenges.

SAMRAT
SAHOO