



TIAGO

SOMMER DAMASCENO

(he / him)

Senior Software Engineer
@ Microsoft



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Where am I from?

Washington

North Carolina

"Hey kids! We are moving to the US. have you been paying attention in in your English classes?"



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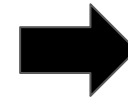
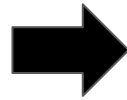
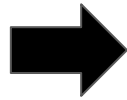


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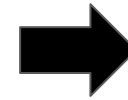
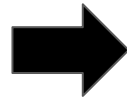
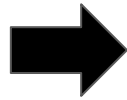


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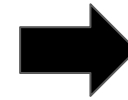
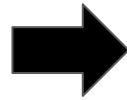
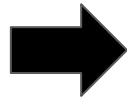


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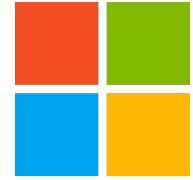
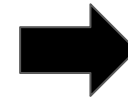
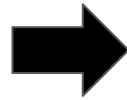
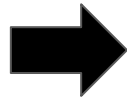


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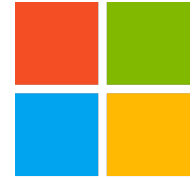
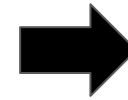
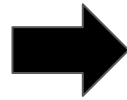
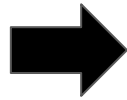


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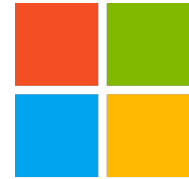
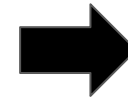
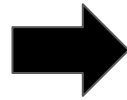
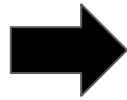


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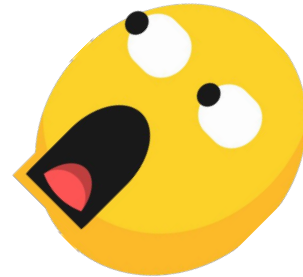
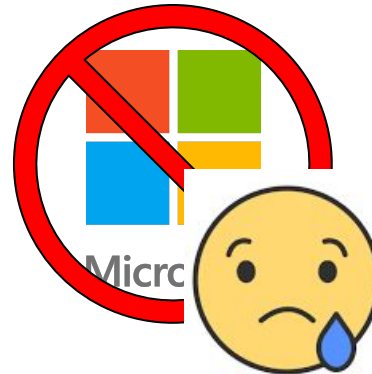


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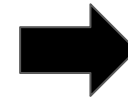
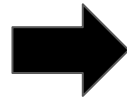
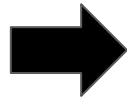


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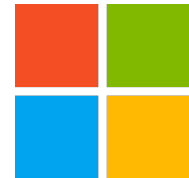
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switched teams once in 2019



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What did I learn? From Community/4-year College



Challenges:

- My family didn't have money to pay for a 4 year college
- As an immigrant, I did really bad in the SATs....
 - Math scores were okay
 - English scores were shit

Learned:

- My peers in community college were really focused on getting internships.
- My peers in the 4 year college were mostly focused on partying as much as they could. Most of them did not have any internship experience by the time they graduated. I already had an offer from Microsoft.

Challenges:

- 100 level engineering classes were super hard
- I failed calculus once
 - I almost failed into the engineering

Learned:

that they made those classes harder on purpose to weed out students who thought they would like engineering vs the ones you had the drive to persevere through those classes. The next engineering classes were much easier. Some were still pretty hard tho



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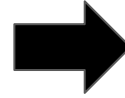
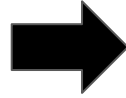
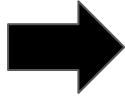


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What did I learn? From internships



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College Major Crises

“Omg... I hate programming.”

“These jobs suck.”

“Do I really want to work in this area?”

Maybe I am okay... ?

Okay, this is getting better...

Some of my workers suck tho.. I don't feel welcomed

THIS IS IT!

Oooh I love this place.
Problems are interesting!
People are supportive!
I feel welcomed!
The paycheck is super good!



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Advice to College Students

1. Do as many internships as you can
 - Internships while taking classes are hard (possible tho)
 - Do use your summers for internships.
2. Talk to people about their roles
 - Professors (some may have worked in the industry)
 - Professionals in the area/company you want to work on
3. Take the advice that makes sense to you
 - Disregard what doesn't make sense





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Questions?

Feel free to reach out to me later with any questions



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