

What is your role at CENX?

I'm in my second co-op term as a junior software developer for the rapid development team. When I applied, they were hiring for that team, and I'm happy to be a part of it. It's a close group of people that constantly challenge each other. Everyone has an opinion and they aren't afraid to voice and defend it, but at the end of the day everyone compromises to find the best solution.

What excites you about the work you do at CENX?

What's cool about my job is that it changes on a sprint basis, since we use Agile Development methodology. This means that every two weeks, I'll get a few different tasks, each different from the one before. I started out with small features for a demo system, then moved on to modify a parser, which was kind of the first step of doing something independently. Overall, I've been challenged in different ways, and I'm introduced to new tasks as I'm going along.

What opportunities do you have to develop your skills while at CENX?

When I first started, the biggest challenge was actually reading other people's code. In school you're told to write everything from scratch, and you're rarely allowed any collaboration. I've also been setting up environments, and I got the chance to set up a demo system for a customer, something I would have never seen in school, so that's definitely a learning experience. Compared to school, here you get to focus on performance, speed, testing, and coding style rather than re-inventing the wheel by writing everything from scratch.

What has stood out from your experience at CENX?

Definitely the culture of the company; we have bagels on Wednesdays, a colourful work environment, and cool company events. I had heard a lot of different stories from my classmates about their experiences. Then I came to CENX, and I am given real tasks and have responsibilities. It was a nice kind of shock; I have deadlines to meet, which I'm responsible for and demos where I get to showcase my work.

What do you like best about the CENX work environment?

When I imagined working, I imagined grey cubicles, boring work, being tired all day, and everything being so 'gloomy'. When I first came here, I was really surprised by the office; it's a colourful and open space, which is really refreshing. Anyone who has an office always has their door open, so you feel like you can approach anyone. We are all kind of together, communicating and collaborating with each other and coming up with solutions together.

Why would you recommend CENX to somebody, a future co-op student for example?

In a nutshell, because it's awesome! I don't feel like I'm coming to work every morning. It may sound stupid, I actually enjoy the people I work with and the work I do. I would also mention, my supervisor and mentor since they're extremely supportive and encouraging. I would also say: be prepared to learn a lot.

Stephanie

Junior Software Developer



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