

Adam Clark came to SUNY Potsdam as a transfer student to study computer science, in which activity he has excelled. He is married and already is working on a United Nations World Health Organization not-for-profit project called WhoNet, where he has re-written and updated central parts of their system. He will continue in his current position after graduation, but he would like to pursue graduate studies at some point in the future. Here is his internship report with Whonet.

I have spent the majority of the spring 2011 semester on site completing an eight credit internship with a medical software company called Whonet. My official role during this time was to test the current iteration of the software and also to write programs to make testing easier and automated. My site supervisor, who was also the lead developer for our branch, was Jeremy Bristol. I worked very closely with him throughout the internship and learned a great deal along the way. My advisor, Dr. Fossum, was also my faculty sponsor. The internship lasted from early January until March 25th, 2011. I worked on site approximately twenty-four hours per week for the duration of the internship, with the only exceptions being spring break where I worked there full time.

My initial objectives were to create a testing environment for the software and to familiarize myself with the software as it was written in VB .NET, a language I had never used at the time. In addition to these objectives, I taught myself Perl which was the language I chose to write my testing utility programs, and developed several useful scripts. I also created a simple web front-end to a mysql database which I used to log issues and test results, making them readily available to the developer.

I completed all of my initial objectives, and then began to help solve some of the issues we were having with the software as well as adding some much needed documentation to the source. I have attached the source for one of my projects, the regression tester, which is run as a cron job (or rather the windows equivalent) to build the source in the evening and run a known set of input files through the newly built programs. The regression tester then compares the output with a master set of output files corresponding to the same input to ensure consistency. If there are any issues detected, they are logged to a database which I check each morning. I really enjoyed writing this program, it was a bit of a challenge to figure out a way of matching the two sets of output files.

I learned a great deal during my time. I enjoyed being part of a large software project, and feel that it has made me more confident and completed my education. I would recommend an internship with Whonet for any student who is very detail oriented and not afraid of learning a bit of medical terminology while also working largely on their own without constant direction and feedback. Since the completion of my internship I have accepted a position with the company to start full time at the close of the semester.