

## Reflection

Participating in an internship this semester has been a great experience. It was a very fun experience and I learned a variety of invaluable skills. This was an opportunity that is not typically easy to acquire, and has given me an inside view of the field that I would like to specialize in.

A large amount of what I covered was a refresher of materials that I previously knew. The internship was primarily focused around computer hardware, which is something I have been dealing in depth with for years. Though I came in knowing the material, I never once felt that it was boring or monotonous, and to the contrary felt it to be a good refresher of essential skills. This exploration into older computers also gave me the desire to begin heavier modifications to some computers. Most gratifying of all however, was being given the ability to share my knowledge with students in the classroom.

Performing hands on teardowns and rebuilds of old computers with the students gave me the opportunity to share a little of what I know with others, which is great in itself and also helps to reinforce some of the core concepts behind working on computers. While they may seem obvious, it is always good to practice the simple things like well grounding yourself prior to working, because they are easy to forget. The teardowns were just as beneficial for the students, as this allowed for me to explain what each component does, thereby helping them better understand the “magic” behind the scenes of their computers.

The most important skill that I have taken out of this is teamwork. While I have been able to work as a team in the past, it has never really been my favorite. I have also never seen the value of it when working on computers. After this internship, however, my view on this has changed entirely. Having two people that know a great deal about computers working together allows for great collaboration and quick troubleshooting. What one person doesn't catch or understand the other usually does.

Completing this internship was a pleasant and valuable educational experience. From it, I have acquired several skills that will help me to perform better at my chosen career. Should I choose not to pursue a career in Information Technology or Computer Science, I have also learned skills that will benefit me in all aspects of life and are not simple limited to computers.