



My experience working at STG the past ten months has been one full of teamwork, creativity, and learning. Landing my first ever programming job as a web developer had me both excited and extremely nervous. I knew how to program, but in the back of my mind I questioned whether I had enough of the necessary experience to be of value to a company like STG. Fortunately, I learned the answer to that question in the first few days of my internship.

Teamwork is an important aspect to any company, big or small. I had some experience programming alongside others in a few of my college classes, but I had no experience in terms of working directly with others on actual client driven projects. STG really did a lot to change that. Starting out, I worked alongside Zach on small updates. As I became more comfortable, I started creating some of the pages of a website. Eventually I progressed enough to begin setting up the actual websites. Every step of the way, I was able to communicate problems or questions I had with Zach or Kyle. Furthermore, I was able to sit in on client project meetings, take notes, and implement changes. The workday did not consist of strictly sitting at my desk and coding by myself for hours on end. There was constant collaboration for brainstorming solutions to problems, working through projects, and generating ideas to meet the needs of clients. Teamwork was one of the key take aways for me from my time at STG.

Creativity lends itself as an almost necessary skill in the web development industry. Websites can often be the first impression a company will make to a new client. During my time at STG, I had the privilege of working alongside Andrew, our in-house graphics designer. Website graphic design was not a strong skill I had prior to my internship. However, working with Andrew and building out his designs for clients was fantastic. I got to work through so many great websites for municipalities, small businesses, and non-profits. Building intuitive and visually appealing designs is a lot more difficult than most would think. Andrew made it seem easy. He truly has a creative mind and being able to work alongside someone who excels at their job was valuable to me. Creativity in web design was another key take away for me.

Constantly learning new things is a reality for a lot of professions. You can tell a lot about a company by the way they invest in teaching their employees. While I had a good amount of knowledge in necessary programming languages, STG gave me the opportunity push my skills further. I learned a lot about WordPress and the process a building a website from an idea to a search result on Google. Furthermore, I learned a lot about working alongside clients on various projects. One of the projects that stands out to me the most was a cemetery search and admin tool. There were multiple meetings with this client and even a training session held at their office. It is one thing to build out a web application. It is a whole different ballgame when the client does not necessarily know what they want, and they rely on your input to solve challenges they are facing. Learning to work alongside clients was another key take away for me.

After nearly ten months of working at STG, I can confidently say that I was able to personally grow in so many different areas. Thinking back to the beginning when I started, my doubt about not having enough experience was a valid concern. However, I learned that STG is a company that is willing to give you all the experience and skills you would hope for as long as you put in the work. The saying 'you get out what you put in' could not be truer, and that is my biggest key take away from my time at STG.

Jacob Barsheff

