

IT Deployment and Fulfillment Co-op – Shaw Industries

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Introduction

I am a senior in the undergraduate Software Engineering program. I discovered Shaw's co-op program through the career fair at Kennesaw and am currently in my second and final term of the program. I plan on graduating in December of 2020.

Experience/What you Did/Learned

Company – Shaw Industries is a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway and is currently one of the largest flooring manufacturers in the world, with a greater focus on carpet.

Introduction– Being such a large company, Shaw has many IT departments in charge of different systems used internally and externally of the company. For this term of my co-op, I worked in IT Deployment and Fulfillment in Cartersville. The small team that I've been working on is in charge of deploying computer hardware at the different plants in the Cartersville area. This creates a unique challenge in that the different departments in Cartersville have vastly different needs (marketing, manufacturing, planning).

Highlights

At the time of making this poster, I still have a little over have of my term left to complete, but I've learned a great deal in the small time that I've had. While some are much more common than others, there are many different types of computers and equipment used in my area. As can be imagined, a computer used on a manufacturing floor has vastly different needs from those used by designers. I've learned the basics of how each computer is set up and brought onto Shaw's networks. Since the first week, I've been able to independently image computers for use at the different plants in Cartersville.



Another large part of my term has involved working on site to fix any major problems with hardware that falls under my team's domain. This has created a great opportunity for me to interact with employees from different parts of the company. Thus far, I've mostly observed and assisted the other members of my team as we diagnose and solve the problems that we get called in for.

Experience

My personal goal during this co-op program has been to get a better understanding of what fields I might want to go into after I graduate. I feel I've made great strides towards achieving this goal, and I am also grateful to have made connections with so many people in a professional setting. This was my second term with Shaw, and the team I worked with this term gave me the opportunity to work with them after I utilized Shaw's shadowing system in my previous term. My department is not usually chosen by someone with my major (Software Engineering), but I hope to expand my horizons and continue to learn more than just what applies to my major.

Preparedness

Most of the class knowledge that I've applied so far has come from Operating Systems which I took with Kun Suo. Professor Suo was very friendly and always happy to help his students during my time in his class.

A great portion of my preparedness had also come from my personal experience outside the classroom. Information Technology is a little bit of a hobby, and I would encourage anyone in a related field to pursue knowledge that may relate to fields close to their majors.

Future Career Plans

I have one semester left after I finish my co-op with Shaw. I am certainly going to keep Shaw in mind as I come closer to entering the job market, but at the moment I don't have any other specific fields or companies in mind.



Acknowledgments

The co-op program at Shaw is a great opportunity for any student. Being such a large company, they give you the ability to explore many different fields, even those that may not apply to your current major.

Both of the teams that I've worked on have taught me a great deal, but I cannot list anyone by name.