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### **A human who talks to computers:**

A discussion with Asif Rahman

Asif Rahman is a programmer who loves technology. He doesn't really talk about his interest in technology much, but when a topic is brought up he is the first one to say something. The one thing that he said which stood out to me was that "The unknown was always something I wanted to explore." I don't even know what that means. Asif really likes his job, he is always talking about his coworkers and all the funny things that they say or do. This one time I went to a party and Asif was there. We were talking and these twins walked in and we started to talk to them. After they left Asif asked me if they were twins. Sometimes I really wonder, how is he a computer scientist? For this interview, Asif came to my house. I know Asif from way back. We used to go to the same Mosque to learn Arabic. Asif is all about questioning things and always open to learning something new. I am also like that, I like to ask questions about things and take in knowledge that is beneficial to me. Jobs in the software developer field are expected to grow up to 31% by 2026 according to CNBC.

Asif went to the same High School as me, but way before me. For college, he went to Fordham University. Asif inspiration came from his family members who are in the engineering field and also his cousin attended MIT for engineering. Asif is a really chill guy. He is really easy to talk to, which is really important in any field. He is also the type of person who buys expensive and useless things and never uses them. He is also a very helpful person. He is willing

to help anyone. Asif has been working at his current job for 2 years, but he has interned at many different places during college.

Asif first job was with a company who he interned during college, He was offered a full-time job by the company and he took it. While he was interning he really liked the people there and the environment at the workplace was positive. Asif said that almost every single course that he took in college helped him get a job. He said that a speech class that he took in college has helped him a lot because it helps him with his presentation skills.

Asifs workday looks something like this. Most of his day consists of coding and a few meetings/speaking out future projects. He starts off his day in the office by looking over what code needs to be completed and what projects need more feedback. He believes that the best way to communicate with them is by working in an open office space. Asif is required to communicate with his teammates almost every single day. Asif doesn't only work with his department he also talks to other departments. In some cases when he is working on a complex project or has a complex problem he would often think about how he would come up with a solution at home and while he sleeps.

Asif spends most of his day writing and reading programs. He likes to read technical coding books and tries to stay up to date with all the new technology releases as well. He writes e-mails to his colleagues every day to keep up to date about the project that they are working on. It takes about two to three months to go from the initial planning stage to the deployment of the project to the client and sometimes even more. Asif texts his coworkers who are his friends. Those texts have nothing to do with work.

Asif communicates through emails, SMS, Instagram Direct message. He only sends emails when he is talking to someone in a different department, but when he is talking to someone in his own department he prefers to talk to them in person. He thinks it is more effective to talk to someone in person. He communicates with his teammates through presentations. Asif and his team have a daily standup where they talk about things they are working on for the day and advice on code/projects. Everyone from the development team joins these meetings. In addition, his company has an "all hands on meeting" every two weeks where everyone from the company joins and all members of the leadership team and speaks about everything going on in the company.

When I asked Asif what advice he had for me he said this "My advice would be to push yourself out of your comfort zone and explore new ideas. Part of engineering is your willingness to always learn and challenge yourself." He told me to read books on Python and start practicing it.

To conclude with this informational interview report, I would like to say that Asif is a person who likes to ask many questions and is always open to acquiring new knowledge. I have always looked at Asif as an inspiration, and after this interview, I look up to him even more because I really didn't know about his life at work like that. After this interview, I want to push myself even more because he emphasized pushing oneself a lot of times.