

## ASIF MAKHANI

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### SKILLS

- Excellent organization, communication and problem solving skills. Enthusiastic, a hard worker and a quick learner.
- Effective interpersonal abilities and proven leadership skills. Thrive in dynamic and challenging environments.
- Able to work independently and effectively with a diverse group of individuals.
- Strong commitment to cooperative teamwork.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### **Manager, Search Indexing Platform,**

*A9.com (a subsidiary of Amazon.com), Palo Alto, CA*

*[Oct'06– Present]*

- Reporting to the Vice President of Amazon Product Search
- Managing a team of project manager and engineers responsible for building a distributed and scalable search indexing system to power Amazon Product Search.
- Responsible for setting priorities and creating and executing roadmaps and project plans.
- Communicate regularly with business owners to understand and resolve business requirements and concerns.

#### **Senior Software Design Engineer, Search Infrastructure,**

*Amazon.com, Seattle, WA*

*Amazon.com (A9.com), Palo Alto, CA*

*[Oct'01 – Oct'06]*

- Designed and implemented core relevancy and indexing features in the search engine.
- Active in recruiting and helping define priorities for the Search Infrastructure team.
- Acting as a senior engineer reviewing design documents and mentoring new hires.

#### **Software Design Engineer, Internet Information Server (IIS),**

*Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA*

*[Aug'00 – Dec'00]*

- Worked with the core development and test team for IIS 6.0 to debug/fix critical problems in features for the beta release of Microsoft Windows XP
- Responsible for verifying the features of the new process model for IIS.

#### **Software Consultant, IBM Business Consulting Services,**

*IBM Corporation, Toronto Labs, ON*

*[Jan'00 – Aug'00]*

- Part of the AIM (Application Integration Middleware) Services group responsible for providing technical consulting for business applications of medium and large companies.
- Travelled extensively to client sites including Fortune 500 companies and worked with members of the senior technical staff to develop middleware prototypes using IBM products.
- Developed and delivered custom workshops for customers on various IBM products for server side programming.

#### **Software Architect, Business Operations,**

*Nortel Networks, Research Triangle Park, NC*

*Nortel Networks, Brampton, ON*

*[Aug'98 – Aug'99]*

*(multiple internships)*

- Designed and Implemented a web-based Project Management and Release Planner which manages Software Release information and produces annual reports.
- Developed an automated test suite for testing DMS software using a virtual environment
- Received an Achievement Award for outstanding performance.

**Software Developer, Power J Team,**  
*Sybase Inc., Waterloo, ON*

*[Jun '96 – Apr. '98]*  
*(multiple internships)*

- Part of the development team for Power J. Developed design-time / run-time support for the **Java Foundation Classes ( JFC )** in Power J.
- Part of the core development team for Power Dynamo. Contributed the initial version for DynaScript, a server side version of JavaScript.

## EDUCATION

**Stanford University, Stanford, CA**

*[Sep '06 – Present]*

- Master of Science – Computer Science
- Specializing in Database Systems and Information Retrieval

**University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, Canada**

*[Sep. '96 – Apr. '01]*

- Bachelor of Mathematics in Honours Computer Science
  - Received Descartes Entrance Scholarship by the University.
- Specializing in Software Engineering and Real-Time systems.
- Took business courses at Wilfrid Laurier University for Information Systems.

### Other education

- Graduated from International Waezeen Training Programme (IWTP), London, UK (2006-2007) with a research focus on 'Influence of leadership on moral reasoning of young adults'.
- Completed a course entitled 'Mysticism in Islam' from Antioch University, Seattle, WA
- Attended IIS Summer Programme on Islam, 2003
- Completed High School in Canada. Completed primary and middle school from Pakistan.

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

**National Project Manager, Oral History Project**

*[Apr '07 – Present]*

*Golden Jubilee National Task Force, USA*

- Developed a strategy for conducting theme based oral history interviews for a representative cross-section of the Jam'at. Working with IIS' Department of Community Relations to produce an archive of interviews for future research.
- Managing a team of project managers and interviewers to execute the project nationwide. Developed and delivered national and local trainings for interviewers.
- Consulted and build relationship with experts on oral history in various institutions including Stanford University.
- Member of Oral History Association of USA. Attended 2007 annual convention focusing on transforming community through oral history.

**Teacher (& Teacher Educator), Religious Education Center**

*[2001 – Present]*

*ITREB USA*

- Teacher for secondary students (grades 9-12) on subjects ranging from Muslim history to contemporary issues.
- Designed and delivered multiple local and national teacher training workshops as part of the national Teacher Educator faculty.

**National Function Manager, Institutional Leadership Strenghtening (ILS)**

*[Dec. '05 – Dec. '06]*

*Aga Khan Youth and Sports Board for USA*

- Responsible for Institutional Leadership Strengthening through focusing on capacity building, succession planning, and ongoing learning and development for AKYSB National and local teams.

- Manage a team responsible on developing and implementing strategies for above.

**Chairperson,**

[Jul. '02 – Jul. '04]

*Aga Khan Youth and Sports Board, Seattle WA*

- Responsible for improving the quality of life of the Seattle Jamat by promoting fitness to all members of the Jamat and development for all youth ages 6 to 25.
- Managed a portfolio-driven team of 7 members. Worked with the Western Region counterpart, as well as local council Chairman and local Program Delivery Team
- Implement programmatic initiatives for the Jamat based on the hidayah from Hazar Imam, focusing on the areas of fitness, sports, service, and leadership development.
- Gained substantial management and leadership experience, risk management and visionary skills.

**Other Community Development Experience:**

- Member, Engineers Without Borders (2000-Present) – part of a network focused on raising awareness and contributing to developing world. Attended national conference on International Development.
- Faculty, Teacher Educator Program, ITREB USA (2006-Present) – developed and delivered programs for training Teacher Educators for secondary religious education.
- Faculty, Continuing Education Program, ITREB USA (2007-Present) – serving as an instructor for remote Learning course on 'Authority and Community'
- Led the design and deployment of iwtp.net, a private portal for the international waezeen community to connect, access knowledge and manage their activities.
- Currently conducting needs analysis for various age segments within the Isma'ili community to recommend a strategic and tactical plan for social development and religious formation for the members.
- Regularly deliver wa'z (sermon) in cities across the nation enhancing community's religious education & formation.
- Mentor, IIS STEP Programme (2007) – served as a mentor in the application process for selected candidates.
- Curriculum development, ITREB USA (2005-2007) – developed curriculum for secondary USA RE curriculum; writer for Student Learning Workbook (SLW) for primary Ta'lim curriculum
- Member, Amazon cares giving group, Amazon.com (2001-2004) – increased employee opportunities for community involvement through voluntary service.
- President, Pakistani Students Association, University of Waterloo (1999-2000) - established a presence of Pakistani community and build relations with other association to promote diversity of cultures.

## ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Patent Pending: "Selection of Search Criteria Order Based on Relevance Information"
- Attended ECIR (European Conference on Information Retrieval), Imperial College, London, April 2006
- Attended OOPSLA 2003 in Seattle, an annual technology international conference.
- Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Waterloo County as a team for the Computer Programming Contest (ECO).
- Selected to participate in the American Invitational Mathematics Examination.
- Stood 4<sup>th</sup> in the Ontario Inter-school Table Tennis Tournament. 2<sup>nd</sup> in the USATT tournament in Portland.
- Selected to represent USA for Table Tennis in the first ever global Isma'ili sports festival (Golden Jubilee Games) in Kenya.
- Avid sports participant – squash, badminton, soccer, snooker, table tennis, & cricket.
- Served as counselor and facilitator at various leadership and youth development camps.