March 10, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dr. Rafit Izhak-Ratzin. I was a student at the department of Communication Systems Engineering (CSE) at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. The CSE department was my first "tech" station, where I started my technical career. During the 4 years in the department the seeds of passion and love for technology were planted. I graduated from the department in June 2000 with Magna Cum Lauda.

Since the graduation from the CSE department, I had spent time in research as well as in the industry, both in Israel and in the US. I got my MSc degree in Software Engineer from Tel-Aviv University in June 2003. After getting my master, I started working on my Ph.D in Networking at the Computer Science Department at UCLA. I got my MSc and PhD from the Computer Science department at UCLA in 2005 and 2010 accordingly. During my academic career, I had the opportunity to work on my research with world leaders in the field of networking. As part of my academia work I taught students, published papers, gave talks, and have served on TPCs.

While the academia is very pronounce in my career, I could not neglect the industry. Since the year of 2000 I worked in different lead companies in the fields of networking, security, and big data. I worked for Cisco, Avaya, Google, Palo Alto Networks, and Robin Systems. At Robin Systems, my current working place, we work on a cutting edge technology for Big Data infrastructure (BTW, 10% of Robin workers are CSE grads). At Robin Systems, I am the chief networking architect and one of the company leads.

As I mentioned, CSE department was the place where I got my strong foundation in engineering, networking, and computer science. The combination of the three helped me to be a strong candidate in the industry as well as in the academia. The great environment helped to build the strong passion for technology. After visiting and teaching in different universities, and collaborating with people from all over the world in the academia and in the industry, I can say confidently that the program at the CSE that I experienced is a very good program that sends the student out to the "tech" world with a great quality, very useful, and very reach tool box.

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