

Subject: Jean-Marc

From: J Campbell [an e-mail] Date: Thu, 16 May 2002 17:01:31 +0100

Jean-Marc Laurent has asked me to send you my comments about the special kinds of work that he was doing when his company collaborated with my research group in European Union projects some years ago. He says that you are having difficulty in finding a suitable industrial or commercial placement for him for a part of the university programme in which he is studying at present, and that the information that I give may help you to identify the right type of placement.

Our projects were in applied artificial intelligence: knowledge-based computing. We were building expert systems that would be able to access conventional software and stocks of data, particularly for financial applications. More generally, the aim of the projects was to integrate knowledge-based computing into the regular operations of organizations that had no previous experience of it - and to ensure that the software that we produced could be integrated well into the overall software environments of the organizations. Expert systems have normally used rules as the units of representation of knowledge. Our projects certainly included rule-based expert systems, but we were also concerned to exploit other representations where these were better suited to the nature of the knowledge that we were processing.

This, for example, explains his present interest in case-based reasoning: the use of "case history" knowledge of how a previous problem has been solved, to guide the computation of a plan for how to solve a current problem.

I think that the ideal industrial or commercial placement for him would be in an organisation that wants to automate the use of "knowledge" about its own work and procedures, or that is doing this in some way already. Because of his background, he should be able to understand the organisation's problems and its needs quickly, and probably also to suggest new technical approaches to its problems.

The work that we did was not called "data mining", because that name did not exist at the time. But some of the uses of knowledge-based computing in the projects were really data mining in disguise. Many organisations are now interested in data mining, or trying to apply it. In principle, any organisation that has any such connection with datamining would be suitable for the placement that you are now trying to find for him.

I am not sure whether this is the kind of information that you need, but it is my best interpretation of what Jean-Marc says that I should send to you. If you want to have any additional information, or some different type of information, please let me know.

This message is not being sent from my normal email address (which is [an e-mail]). I usually reply faster from that address than from the address in the header for this message.

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