Aveiro - Your motivation letter for this activity

Olá Aveiro!

I'm Andrei, electrical engineering student in the lovely city of Vienna, Austria (although not originally from here, but that's a different story). I love sports, long and romantic bike rides through the mountains and countryside, also a passionate swimmer, either in the pool or in the sea, never swam in the Atlantic though (it's on my bucket list!), and I try to go to the gym every once in a while. For fun I do small little projects to satisfy my curiosity, like making an Android app that powers up like a lightsaber, an Arduino weather display, a secret nuclear warhead program, oh shit wait...But to fit in with the others I also enjoy parties, board games, pub quizzes and just having a pleasant conversation between friends over a cold beer.

Now, why do I want to go to your course? So. many. reasons.

I absolutely love the Internet of things movement and I can't just sit idly waiting until our computer overlords take over the world. There's a huge need now for low-powered, secure and fast platforms that could enable all these small gadgets to improve our quality of life and allow us to have more accurate data, be more productive and not focus on the little things that don't matter.

As I mentioned, a big goal of mine is to swim in the Atlantic (so far I've only seen it in the Netherlands, but it was February and I didn't want to get pneumonia) and I absolutely fell in love with your city as I have a very close friend living there, always teasing with pictures of sandy beaches and sunny weather, and here I am stuck in Vienna freezing my ass off in April.

Another reason is I'm a fairly internationally-minded(is that even a word?) guy, I have 2 citizenships, speak 5 languages, member of LBG Vienna, and to further to "internationalize" myself I want to visit a country I've never been to and meet the great people of Aveiro and fellow course participants!

What I offer is a great sense of humor, funny stories, fantastic looks, comradery, and of course I'm very humble. I'm kinda tall so I can bring a big bag of Austrian goodies, like cakes, strudels, chocolate and some good old Stroh 80(ever heard of the "burning manner"?) .

So there you go, thank you for reading and now go head and put this letter on the "accepted" pile!

Adeus amigos,

Andrei

Activity specific questions

What is, in your opinion, the biggest risk associated with the Internet of Things?

Internet of things has immense applications in every domain and with all the data that's being transmitted and services it provides, many raise their concerns over security and

privacy maters. As an example, having all of your household devices connected to the Internet, it is not that far-fetched of an idea that a middle-man can tap into the data stream and use it for whatever reason. Even eliminating the middle-man, how much can we

entrust corporations with our data? How much can we entrust that the encryption they provide(if any at all) is secure and undecryptable on both ends? These are all questions that need to be looked at carefully and we as engineers, I feel, should look at solutions to solve some of these problems.

What do you regard as the most interesting use of the Internet of Things?

I read a cool article about a "smart" pillow, that plays music and meditative sounds, and with the help of an in-built microphone monitors your sleeping and snoring pattern. While the first part is more of a gimmick (I mean, if you sleep on your sides like I normally do, I wouldn't want to listen to music through only 1 ear), the 2nd part can for sure be of use to people with sleep apnea and offer a much more relaxing experience for an activity that we do everyday for 8 hours or so.

Also stuff like, Amazon Echo, Google Home or Jarvis(any Marvel fans out there?) that are more of a hub for all your appliances will definitely play be a big part in the development of IoT, especially as chips get stuffed into every appliance and monitoring them becomes such a hassle, only a computer can do it. I for one, welcome our computer overlords.

How much does internet run your life?

Considering my brain is almost 99% memes and cat videos, I would say quite a lot. To be honest though, I would like to think I use the internet as a tool, much like a screwdriver, I try to only use it for getting information, communication and keeping in touch with those I can't have a face to face conversation with, but in reality much of my behavior and thoughts are a reflection of the "movement" of the internet and that is so much more apparent when you to talk to someone who doesn't use it, in my case my grandparents. We are just on different wavelengths a lot of the time, now you could blame it on them being senile, but the influence of the internet is undeniably there. Whether it's good or bad is hard to say for now, Internet has only been out for 20 years and changing ever so rapidly, you never know what the future holds in store, but I only hope we continue get the most fresh and dank memes.