

TULIP RETAIL

Kitchener, ON

For my first work term of five, I am privileged to be working alongside an astounding product development team at Tulip Retail. I work with a small team of 4 - 5 other individuals in order to design and build full-stack solutions, from databases to APIs to user experience. The team consists of myself - a Software Developer, a Director of Product Delivery Engineering, two Development Team Leads, and a Senior Software Developer.



ABOUT THE COMPANY

Tulip Retail is a mid-sized technology startup founded in 2013 by Ali Asaria and a team of mobile commerce experts. They had one goal in mind: reinvent retail and shape the future of the in-store shopping experience. Not only did they excel at their goal, but they continue to surpass every achievement they set. Tulip has built a retail mobile software platform that empowers leading retailers such as Mulberry, Chanel, Saks Fifth Avenue, Kate Spade, Coach, and Michael Kors to give mobile devices to their store associates so they can elevate service, sell more and provide a personalized experience.

LEARNING GOALS

- To increase oral communication with my team, specifically in meetings, and be comfortable in asking questions.
- Improve my problem-solving process by placing more emphasis on how my solution affects the existing system.
- Learn and improve my ability to work with other individuals in a team in order to complete my task at hand in an efficient manner.
- Increase productivity by organizing all tasks, responsibilities, and requirements in a queue.

- Become more proficient with full-stack development including databases / APIs.

PRODUCT DELIVERY

The Product Delivery team at Tulip has a wide range of responsibilities. Although my time at tulip was short, I most definitely was exposed to a magnitude of opportunities to cover a wide range of obligations the team has to deliver on.

The opportunity that struck me the most would be the work I completed for a client that required the development and implementation of a full order hook, that would be integrated from Tulips system and their database. Although the work itself seemed to be standard at first, the authorization method requested was one that Tulip did not implement in any other client previously. Although this imposed a challenge, it also opened a door to learning more about AWS. I was able to expose myself to professionally written documentation from Amazon directly, which taught me the importance of documentation, how to read it, take away necessary information, and implement it into a solution.

I completed the entire hook by using Javascript and Node JS while implementing multiple external and internal libraries. Furthermore, I developed test cases for each component of the hook to ensure no faulty/undetected code was executed. This opportunity was one of many I got the privilege of experiencing at Tulip, and I truly believe it strengthened me as a developer.



MY ROLE

My official title is Software Developer Co-op - Product Delivery. My duties consist of:

- Work as a key member of a product development team.
- Design and build full-stack solutions, from databases to APIs to user experience.
- Create professional and user-engaging iOS and web applications.
- Integrate the Tulip platform with the retail systems of collaborative brands.

My skill set for the job consist of:

- Common web and mobile technologies (i.e., JavaScript, PHP, MySQL, Go, and Swift).
- Knowledge of version control systems.
- Problem-solving skills, specifically ones that consist of simplifying complex problems into actionable next steps.
- Knowledge of shipping applications with CI or CD tooling.

REFLECTION

My work term at Tulip Retail reaffirmed the technical skills I'd been hoping to further develop as a professional developer, while also introducing me to new ones. I have had the privilege to be mentored by Neil St Amor, who has remarkably taught me the ins and outs of not only navigating my way through the Tulip system and business model (Saas) but helped guide me through my goals, ensuring I was achieving them as my term passes by exposing me to new opportunities and challenges. From simple localization work to developing and integrating a fully working hook for a client, my time here at Tulip has been nothing short of exciting and adventurous.