Dear Employer:

My name is Ruben Safir and enclosed is my resume for a position in your company. As you are probably aware, a resume can only give you a limited snapshot of any prospective employees skills and potential. It is even harder in these tough times to find the right employee for your organization, as a blizzard of resumes increasingly look like an alphabet soup of accreditations and job skills. It gets harder and harder to separate different individuals or to understand how different individuals might fit into your organization.

This letter will hopefully fill in some the background which escapes a resume. I'm an experienced programmer and mid level system administrator. Over the last few years, After several years in the US Army, and after a career in Pharmacy, I moved to computer services prior to the boom of the mid 1990's. I have been programming and using computers in my work from grade school until today, so the switch was natural as I became increasingly unhappy with being a prescriptionists in retail and hospitals. I went for PhD in Pharmaceutics, and ended up, happily, working with computers.

Shortly after entering the field formally, I quickly moved into supervisory roles. My employees have found me very focused on cost containment and creative solutions. My staff have been traditionally well trained by me, and productive. Innovation and team work is my major attributes.

At NYU I was in charge of the entire intranet services of the Dental School. We consistently brought projects in under budget on time. In that venue we affected every part of the school from the clinical departments to the executive offices. Our use of the right technology and proper training drove these real successes.

After leaving NYU, I largely worked for a consulting company, Brooklyn Linux Solutions. We have worked with a wide variety of businesses in bringing solutions to small and mid-size businesses. We have worked with small stores, office automation, internet service providers and accounting firms.

I've not been entirely satisfied with the level of education in the IT industry, and with computer sciences education in the general. I taught Perl and Unix programming at the New School, and found that I wanted to reach more people and provide a greater level of opportunity for others. As a result, I started NYLXS, a non-profit organization designed to improve education and to advocate Free Software use in New York City. We started the Free Software Institute, part of the educational arm of NYLXS, and established the best training program for GNU/Linux and programming in the city. We have launched on my watch as the organizations president 2 large Free Software Business Expos, and a quarterly journal on technology issues and technology use. We have launched a support program for public secondary schools in NYC, and spearheaded a pro-technology political agenda.

In the face of the increasingly steep recession after September 11th ,2001, we have worked to stimulate business and work opportunities for computer developers and administrators. And we have worked with the government in building the infrastructure for a digitalized future.

I won a Golden Penguin at the 2001 Linux World Expo, and I've had a number of articles published in the technology press. I've been published in “The Linux Journal” and in other magazines. I've also been interviewed by reporters on topics which range from how my family's uses technology in the home, to my political activities in regards to digital rights management.

My clients have often worked with me to help build many of these programs, and I'm happy to say that while I haven't become rich, I am rich in friends, and often work with them as co-workers, employers, business partners and neighbors.

I hope that this letter fills in the gaps of my resume. And I hope that I'm the sort of employee your looking for.

Thank you for your time:

Ruben Safir
ruben@mrbrklyn.com
1600 East 17th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11230
1-718-382-0585