University of Zurich
Department of Informatics

Binzmühlestrasse 14
CH-8050 Zürich
Switzerland
Tel. +41 1 635 45 79
Fax +41 1 635 68 09
bernstein@ifi.unizh.ch
www.ifi.unizh.ch

Prof. Abraham Bernstein, Ph. D.
Dynamic and Distributed
Information Systems

To whom it may concern

Zürich, November 21, 2007

Reference for Markus Stocker

Dear Sirs or Madam

Markus Stocker, born July 26, 1979, from Ettiswil (Lucerne, Switzerland) has studied Computer Science with a concentration in Business Informatics from 2000 to 2006 at the University of Zurich Switzerland. During the last six months of his studies I supervised his diploma thesis (comparable to a Master thesis). When he finished his studies I employed him for the period of 3½ months as a research assistant before he left for an internship at HP Labs in Bristol.

During his thesis and subsequent employment Markus successfully developed the theory of a selectivity based optimizer for the SPARQL query language. He was the first to develop such an optimization approach for the SPARQL language – a critical element for the practical usage of SPARQL. Markus was able to successfully take theories for query optimization developed for other domains and adapt them to SPARQL. He then developed a prototype implementation of the optimizer that showed an improvement in terms of speed over current methods of multiple orders of magnitude.

Markus showed an outstanding ability to understand the nature of problems, analyze them, devise solutions, implement stable solution implementations and interact with other team members to achieve those goals where needed. It was especially remarkable to observe how he was able to determine which problems he could attack without help and where he needed feedback from either team-members or his supervisor (myself). As such I would rate Markus a highly mature and effective worker and would recommend him for any position.

Yours sincerely

Abraham Bernstein