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Apache Software Foundation
Director
1901 Munsey Drive
Forest Hill, MD 21050

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you with the hope of obtaining your help.

I am currently incarcerated and during my stay in prison, I have learned how to program. My prison used to have a very good computer class. The class was stopped in February of 2011 due to the Instructor retiring. The prison then moved to find a new Instructor, but it was later determined that the class will not restart due to budget issues in the PA. Dept of Corrections.

While in class, I learned Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access, Publisher, & PowerPoint). I then moved on to Programming where I learned Visual Basic, C++, and finally Java. Unfortunately, I was not able to finish Java due to the class being stopped. But I learned enough to the point that I literally fell in love with the Java language. My love affair with Java almost got me kicked out class numerous times. For example, when I was suppose to be doing an MS-Excel assignment, I was creating an Applet that can read from a Database. Or, if I was suppose to be doing a Visual Basic assignment, I was trying to create a messaging program that will allow me and my neighboring classmate to send messages to each other.

While I was in class, I learned that I love working with computers. More specifically I love to code and create applications. I want to make a career for myself as an Application Developer. Committing burglaries are no longer an option. And for the first time in a very long time, I am not thinking about doing burglaries as a way to make money. And despite my criminal past, I know that a skillset can trump perception.

I have some very good ideas for creating applications. But I do have a few problems. Among them is the fact that I have absolutely no books or reading material on Application Development. My prison's library has computer books that are dated. I am talking Microsoft Windows 2000 dated. There is absolutely nothing on Web Application development or Mobile Application Development. And this is the current landscape for App-development. This makes me feel like I am being left behind.

I try to keep up with computer trends through publications in the library by reading the Wall Street Journal, MaximumPC magazine, & Popular Science Magazine. Other than that have no information on creating applications. And this is why I am writing to you. To ask you for your help.

Indigence and a lack of family support causes me to ask of you to please donate a few books on application development to me. The titles of the most interest to me is as follows:

- Android Application Development
- Java 8 EE
- Java Server Pages (JSP & JSF)
- HTML 5
- Java Web Services (SOAP, REST & JSON)

If you can send to me any of these books, it will mean everything to me. It will provide me with study material that I so desperately need. The books can be used , defected, or be in totally bad condition. I don't care. I just want to learn.

In closing, I hope that you can find it in your heart to help me out. And I want to thank you for taking time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamal Reid". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jamal Reid