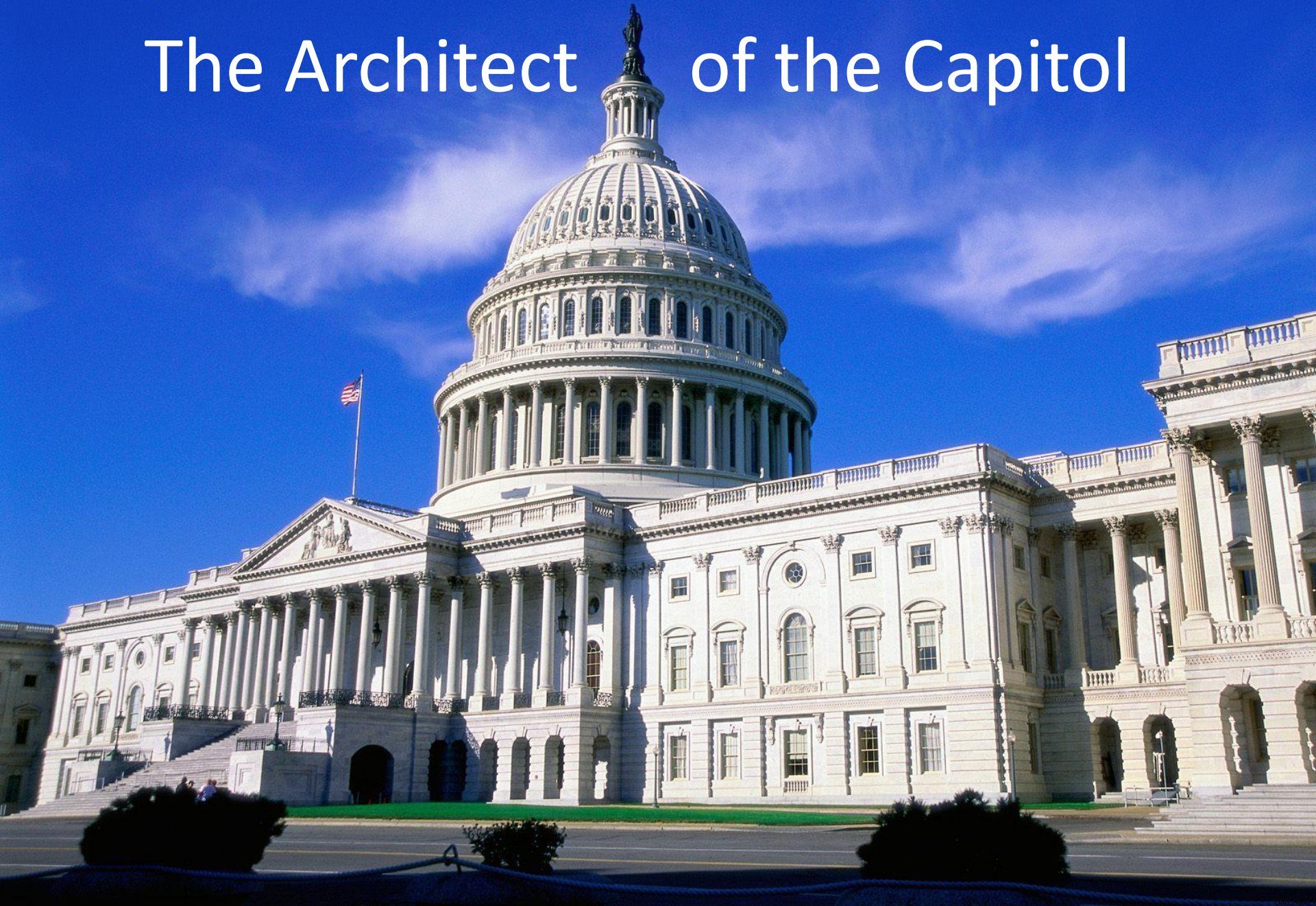


The Architect of the Capitol



What is the AOC?

- The AOC is the federal agency responsible for the maintenance, operation, development, and preservation of the United States Capitol Complex.
- The AOC is also responsible for the head of the federal agency.
- It is a part of the legislative branch and is responsible to the United States Congress and the Supreme Court.

What does the AOC do?

- As I said earlier, the AOC is mainly responsible for things such as maintenance, development, and preservation.
- While that list may seem small, there is actually many responsibilities that consist of basically everything you could think of... the list widely varies from jobs such as landscaping all the way to computer technology.

How large is the AOC?

- The AOC stretches across 17.4 million square feet of building and over 553 acres of land throughout Capitol Hill.
- This includes the Capitol, Cannon, Ford, Longworth, Rayburn, Dirksen, Hart, and many more buildings.
- They have provided jobs for hundreds of thousands of people and have been doing so since 1793.

My Internship at the AOC

- During my time at the AOC I did wide variety of jobs for the Information Technology Department. Those jobs included tasks such as setting up WIFI in various locations across Capitol Hill, data cleanup in SQL, inventory, software test training, debugging applications, helpdesk work, setting up devices for clients, and much more.

Challenges

- Some of the few challenges I faced while at the AOC were things such as communication and understanding their way of operating.
- Communicating with clients while I assisted them with help desk problems seemed to be one of the biggest problems for me. Attempting to figure out what was going wrong when clients had problems was difficult because of the lack of information they had given, and the lack of questions I asked.
- Setting up devices and working on peoples computers proved to be difficult at times as well due to the lack of experience with how the AOC has certain things set up.

How Classroom Experience Helped

- Classroom experience definitely helped me a lot when it came to working in SQL servers. Just by having a bit of experience and knowledge of them went along way, which made it easier to work in.
- Prior classroom knowledge also significantly helped me when it came time for testing applications and searching for bugs. With it, I knew what certain things to look for, and had better ideas on how to solve them.

Things I learned from my Internship

- What I learned from my internship was not only IT skills, but also social skills. By doing things such as sitting in on meetings with very important clients and actively working with multiple clients every day significantly improved this skill.
- I gained more experience with working in SQL, setting up routers, how to use tools such as the `find` in order to find out where imports lead to in server rooms/vise versa, and problem solving strategies, but most importantly I learned how to schedule and plan so that you have enough time to complete a project within a given timeframe.