

**Research Engineer - Natural Language Processing**

**About Us**

Join the #1 brand and top Web property focused on answering people’s questions. At Ask.com, we’re building a next-generation Q&A service – spanning both the Web and mobile devices -- that combines the power of search with insight from real users. Our proprietary algorithms crawl the web for question and answer pairs (400 million and growing), fueling one of the biggest Q&A databases on the Web.  This unique technology, combined with answers from real users in our community, makes Ask.com the most comprehensive Q&A service around. At Ask, we empower each individual to succeed, communicate their ideas, and take action. When you work here, you know your contributions will have a direct and immediate impact on the company. We are serious about creating and maintaining a company culture that is both innovative and fun, and we’re looking for great people to come join our team.

**Summary**

Ask.com is looking for a software engineer to join a research-oriented team in the Oakland, CA office. The research engineer will join a horizontal team supporting the Ask.com core language technologies, which power the search- and database-driven question answering solutions as well as the algorithmic language processing infrastructure for the Q&A community and mobile applications.

**Required:**

* Natural language processing / computational linguistics background. Ideal: information retrieval and machine learning applications
* Python and/or Perl, shell scripting, XML. Ideal: some Java and/or C/C++, familiarity with SQL and relational databases
* Ph.D. in computational linguistics / natural language processing or related areas.

**Skills and Experience:**

* 3+ plus years experience in natural language processing / computational linguistics in industry or large scale academic research project.
* Expertise in at least some of the following specific NLP areas and topics: question answering, lexical semantics, collocations, terminology extraction, multi-word expressions, (shallow) parsing, named entity recognition, lexical acquisition, paraphrasis acquisition, information extraction, text classification, evaluation methodologies.
* In general, experience is desired in web analytics, both in terms of using the web as corpus (including the family of related approaches, techniques, issues) and in terms of search engine query logs analysis / user behavior modeling.
* Familiarity with existing data resources and tools: Wordnet, POS taggers, parsers, LingPipe, SVMLight, NLTK, Weka, and similar tools.
* Ideal: practical experience with Lucene/Solr, Mahout and the Hadoop ecosystem.
* Ideal: experience with ontologies, RDF, other semantic web resources or tools.
* Ability to develop prototypes based on proprietary or open source tools.
* Ability to work in a fast-paced environment and adapt to shifting conditions, priorities, deadlines.
* The ideal candidate should be able to refer to products and/or research prototypes that they have developed or to which they have contributed, or to their contributions to sites like StackOverflow.

**Location:  Downtown Oakland (near 12th St. BART Station)**

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