## **Self Evaluation**

A self evaluation can be a very difficult process the first few times you do it, but if you are honest with yourself and keep at it, it will be a very powerful tool as you look at future opportunities. Often finding the right questions to ask is one of the hardest tasks. Here are some things for for to consider in your self evaluation:

* *What kind of work environment helps me thrive?* Do you need to be somewhere alone and undisturbed so you can focus on a small group of tasks, or do you find inspiration in the chaos that can come from doing lots of different things?
* *How do I feel about working in groups?* Working in groups is part of any job, but some require constant work with your peers while others require only periodic interactions.
* *At what kind of work do I excel?* Do you enjoy worked on structured problems that have a knowable solution, or perhaps you like complex puzzles with no clear, single path to success?
* *With what level of complexity am I comfortable?* Some projects can have hundreds of interrelated pieces being shepherded by many different people. Do you enjoy being surrounded by that much complexity, or do you need to work on more discrete, well defined work?
* *What kind of context helps me be successful?* Do you want to be able to see the entire big picture and understand how your work fits in, or are you comfortable working on a piece of the puzzle with only information on the inputs you will get and the output that is required?
* *What kind of recognition is important to me?* Do you like constant positive reinforcement of your work output? How publicly do you want your achievements recognized? Are monetary rewards important to you (note that this is different from being paid a fair wage for your work)?
* *How far am I willing to move?* In many cases new jobs mean relocation. You need to consider the impact on your family a move may have and discuss it with them. What sort of employment opportunities need to be available for your partner? What school options are there for the children? Consider also the kind of weather that suits you, the part of the country (and world) in which you want to be, and how far you’ll be from your support structure.
* *Freeform response.* Pick something that is important to you that hasn’t been asked here and put in writing your thoughts about it.