A Portrait of C.S. Irish

This profile reflects the qualities generally found among Notre Dame students who study computer science. The list of attributes is by no means exhaustive and does not purport to encompass the full personalities of ND CS students, since it is in the nature of such students to be different from one another. Rather, it represents a core set of commonalities that apply to the majority of the Class of 2016.

Physical Appearance:
Covered entirely, head to toe, in reasonably fashionable habiliment, not for modesty, but for protection from the despotic cold. Function supersedes form on most days, and the traditional hoodie + jeans outfit appears only in the narrow window of temperate South Bend weather - Fall syllabus week and Spring finals week.

In accordance with the du Lac, Notre Dame's code of conduct, at least two articles of clothing will contain some reference to Notre Dame or the Fighting Irish (though it is worth noting that CS students occasionally don apparel from other universities with better CS departments or the cool tech companies they interned with last summer).

Fitting with the general appearance of ND students, they will be physically fit, having played and possibly captained a varsity sport in high school.

Choice of Machine:
iPhone. Though if they're forced to actually write code, they will pull out a Macbook Pro and open one of those IDE's that does all the work for you. There is a small faction of Curt Freeland loyalists who run Linux on their PC's, but ever since Curt retired, their numbers have dwindled.

Text editor:
In a recent survey of the senior class, it was found that most students preferred emacs over vim, but it was unclear whether the majority of those emacs users actually understand how to use all of emacs' tools.

In a follow-up survey about whether the programmers preferred "tabs" or "spaces," it was evident from the near-universal "tabs" response that no one has any idea what that means.

Leisure occupation:
You aren't going to hear about the next Mark Zuckerberg at Notre Dame - ND CS students generally don't use a free Tuesday night to hack the school's intraweb* when there's broomball to be played, O'Rourke's karaoke to be sung, and quarter dogs to be eaten.

A few students have tried to organize weekend trips to regional Hackathons to stock up on ammunition for interviews, but they draw small crowds when the alternative is drinking beer for 16 hours on a Football Saturday.

*Though some thought has gone into creating FaceMash at Notre Dame using ID card pictures**. It would require administrator access to Notre Dame's file system, possibly obtained by bribing a card services staff member with a wrap from Cafe de Grasta(?).

**Of course this is a joke - we've all taken at least three classes that emphasize ethical decision making, and it is completely obvious to us all that what Mark Zuckerberg did at Harvard was morally deplorable.

Religious Beliefs:
Most students come in with relatively strong traditional Catholic beliefs, but by sophomore year, after a full night of prayers to fix a segfault go unanswered, they turn to less conventional deities: teaching assistants, Mad Dog, or whoever else happens to be in the Fitzpatrick Engineering Library at 4:00am on a Wednesday night.

Philosophical Beliefs:
I can leave my new Macbook Pro charging on a random table in the library, at the dining hall, or in the middle of the quad, and it will be there when I return, several hours later.

I can become part of Notre Dame history if I ask a question loudly enough during a class that is being lecture-captured.

Memorize 26845 or become the kid that always knocks on the Cushing 303 door.

Ismo Hanninen is a fallen angel.

There is no sweeter sound than Danny Chen's voice, reciting an Algorithms lecture at 2x on Echo360 the night before a homework assignment is due.