



How to be successful in your job search and professional career

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Open ended interview question

Out of the many phones in the market, which phone would you buy, and why? And how would you go selecting them?



Job Search and Transition

- Focus on your search - stop applying for all jobs that's available.
- Find your interest and narrow your search.
- Know what you're looking for, but don't jump into the job search until you're ready



Strategies for Job Search

- Internet job searches (dice, monster, etc)
- Company websites
- Social and networking sites (linkedin, facebook, google plus, twitter searches)
 - do real time twitter searches.
 - post a friendly request on facebook / googleplus.
- Interview websites (glassdoor, careercup)
- Maintain an spreadsheet to track.



Strategies for Job Search

- Network with people
 - Attend technology related user groups and network (meetup.com)
 - Participate in code marathons that happen in your city
 - Talk at events about the technology that you know (eg: silicon valley code camp)
 - Attend community job fairs



Build resume - Accentuate the positive

- Craft a resume that opens doors and gets results
- Misconception that resumes need to be filled with exaggeration - They can be counter-productive.
 - Your resume should reporting NOT bragging
 - Use the right words while drafting resumes like
 - I have the knowledge of x technology
 - I have hands-on experience in y technology



Build resume - Accentuate the positive

- Don't put in resume what you do not know
- Keep the resume to 1 page
 - short one or 2 bullet points
 - focus on accomplishments not responsibilities
- Completing your resume.
 - Ask yourself - what are the five important things (that you possess) that your employer should know that you are good at
 - Review, and proof read



Develop a strong cover letter

- Use your cover letter; it's another important marketing tool
- It's a personalized communication
- Need not be a separate letter – It can be an email as well



How to get noticed or stand out

- In parallel, do some pet project, or a meaningful website.
- Contribute to some open source projects
- Help some non-profits with the technical knowledge you have
- Learn a technology at your spare time.
- Start a start-up – show entrepreneurial spirit



Characteristics of a successful Job search

- Time
- Energy
- Organization
- Persistence



what's your passion ?

What do you want to be/do?

- Software Engineer / Web developer
- Technical Architect
- Project/Program Manager
- Test / QA Engineer
- Technical Writer
- ???



During Interviews

- Communicate well
- Answer to the question
- Ask question to further your answers
- Be honest



Behavioral Questions

- What you enjoyed most in your last project?
- Which one thing did you really hate in project Y, why?
- What were the challenges / mistakes / conflicts you faced in release engineering position?



Behavioral Questions

You need to practice the behavioral questions well in advance.

- What top issues/bug have you raised ? hardest bug ? how did you influence team?
 - 1. the issue,
 - 2. your action, &
 - 3. the impact



Preparing for Technical interview

- Tech interviews test your aptitude
- Practice interview Qs from the web
- Basic manipulations to data structures
- Practice, practice, practice!
- Write code on paper.
- Develop test cases (top 5 each)
- Test the code on computer.



Preparing for Technical interview

- Understanding of data structures and algorithms is a huge advantage
- You should know
 - how to implement them
 - when to use them (pros / cons)



Preparing for Technical interview

Useful books

- Algorithms in a nutshell
 - Programming pearls
 - Programming interviews exposed
 - Effective Java
 - Effective C++
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- Take coding challenges @ Topcoder



Product Design Questions

- How do you design Calculator?
- With \$100k, how will start a factory?
- Design a pen
 - Checks communication skills
 - Structure thinking skills
 - Creativity
 - Ability to understand the user
 - And business instinct skills



Estimation Questions

How many tennis balls can be fit in a school bus?

- Basic, Current & General Knowledge
- Test Quantitative skills
- Ask questions to resolve uncertainty and ambiguity
- Structure your approach
- Breakdown the components
- Sanity Check



Puzzle

You are in a room with three switches which control three light bulbs in a room way on the other side of the building. You can go into the room with the light bulbs only once. How do you figure out which light switch goes with which light bulb? No tools allowed. Nobody can help you. No cell phones

Puzzles are rarely asked.



Technical Questions

When on white board ...

- Ask questions
- Talk out loud
- Think critically
- Code slowly, neatly and methodically
- Test your code



How to code well

- Be methodical
- Be bug free as much as possible
 - Make user you have error handlers
 - Check for error conditions, null, etc
- Write clean code
 - pick appropriate data structures
 - make your code concise and readable
 - if required divide into different classes.



Phone screening

- A way to search for best candidates.
- To avoid wastage of time / money / effort
- Take phone screening seriously
 - Take calls from a silent room
 - Keep all stationary and a laptop ready.
 - Be equipped with all stuff that's been request from you (eg: google-docs, collabedit, skype).
 - Be open to changes.



Closing thoughts

- Dress appropriate
- Come up with good questions beforehand.
- Resume: make simple & short – NO graphics or colors. Graphic resume is for UI/graphic designers.
- Cover letters / should be good enough in email itself.



Closing thoughts

- Phone screens & On-site interviews
- Build referral network
- Always carry a positive attitude
- Follow up after the interview
 - No response != rejection
 - If you fail, try again. Make notes of all the questions you were asked during the interview and practice.



How to get recognized or stand out

Watch video clip

(on how to land a interview at Google)



Thank you!

- Good Luck!
- Come back to Sansa technologies, to acquire new knowledge.