MS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB SEARCH

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Agenda

• Possible career paths with an MS degree
• Finding an industry position
• How to present yourself
• Writing a resume that attracts attention, the importance of your LinkedIn profile
• The interview (before, during & after)
• Career growth & advancement
What can you do now to prepare for your job search?
What

• Attend technical conferences and workshops
• Use your professional network
• Maintain an updated LinkedIn profile
• Participate in hackathons, bug bounties and company campus visits
• Attend career fairs
• Use recruiters
• Search broadly
Where can I get a job?
Many tech jobs are not in tech companies

- Government
- Telecommunications
- Education
- Healthcare...

Where

There are many positions for Master graduates:

- Developer
- Program/Product Manager
- User Experience Designer / Researcher
- Data Scientist
- Product Evangelist
- Consultant
- Research Scientist (go on to Grad School – yay!)
Organization → Product → Functions

- Product Managers
- UX
- Engineering
- Marketing
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Big to mid-size company</th>
<th>Start-up</th>
<th>Freelance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scale</td>
<td>Higher risk</td>
<td>Range of work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>Role breadth</td>
<td>Career freedom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specific role</td>
<td>Less bureaucracy</td>
<td>Less constraints</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career path</td>
<td>Move faster</td>
<td>Autonomy</td>
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Capital one

Changing Banking for Good
Career opportunities in Data science
Build a unifying representation of customers & needs

Unstructured and Structured

Speech & Image

NLP

Analyze, Automate, Predict

- Biometric authentication
- Real-time recommenders
- Detect process defects
- Quality customer experience

Speech Recognition

Sentiment, Topics

Acoustic Features

Linguistic Features

OCR

Text Features

Crowd Sourcing
Then help customers succeed in managing their finances
How do I prepare for the job market?
INTERNSHIPS
How - Preparing

• Be proactive: target skills for your dream job(s) and assess gaps
  – Open source community, github, Stack Overflow
  – internships: real-world experience is valued
  – network

• Know your resume inside-out
  – What did you do?
  – Why was it important?
  – Technical challenges?

• Why are you interested in this particular company?
  – What is its story?
  – Where is it going?
CAREER OBJECTIVE
To obtain an entry-level position as a computer systems programmer.

EDUCATION
California State University, Fullerton
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
Graduated Magna Cum Laude

RELATED COURSES
- Data Structures Concepts
- Object-Oriented Programming Languages
- Computer Organization and Assembly Language
- Programming Languages and Translation
- Foundations of Software Engineering
- File Structures and Database Systems

TECHNICAL SKILLS
- Certifications: CompTIA A+, EDI Helpdesk Certified
- Languages: Visual Basic, SQL, HTML, ASP, CSS, C++, CGI, Perl, Java
- Operating Systems: Windows, UNIX, Linux
- Database Systems: Oracle, ADB2, Relational Databases

WORK EXPERIENCE
New Computer Company
Customer Service Representative
August 2009 - Present
- Assist customers by addressing software installation and operation questions
- Provide support to Customer Service Training Program
- Participate in extensive product training program
- Prepare monthly reports

LEADERSHIP SKILLS
- President of Upsilon Pi Epsilon (International honor society for computing and information disciplines), Fall 2009 - Spring 2010
- Active member of Association for Computing Machinery, Fall 2008 - Spring 2010

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS
- Fluent in Vietnamese
Tailored Resume

• What makes you stand out?
• How do you customize to that organization?
• Quantify and use action words: Led, Drove, Collaborated, Managed
How – Finding Opportunities

– Use your professional network
– Use recruiters
– LinkedIn is your friend
– Hackathons, bug bounties, open source community
– Company campus visits
– Conferences
– Search broadly
How - Interviewing

• Engineering Interview
  – Programming test
    • Cracking the Coding Interview
  – Algorithms questions
• Manager interview
  – Soft skills
  – Fit
• Never turn down a reasonable opportunity to interview
• Many companies have interview prep material online
Interview – get ready

- Review fundamentals: algorithms, data structures
- Practice coding on a whiteboard; it is not easy or intuitive!
- Use a collaborative editor
- Find sample questions online
- Get tips from books, blogs, your peers
- **Do mock interviews**
- Question might be vague: ask!
- Talk through your solutions
  - show your thought process
  - solution doesn't have to be "the" answer
  - highlight trade-offs and issues with performance, security, robustness, usability, portability, scalability, libraries, etc.
- For each one: people, project, current news
Interview – get ready
You are the interviewer too!

• Evaluate the organization as much as they are evaluating you
  – Gauge culture through lunches and any informal conversations
  – Can you see yourself working there?
  – Get information you need to make a decision if you get an offer

• Think through timelines and be flexible

• Prepare to negotiate
The interview (preparation)

- Call or email alumni @ that company
- Do a mock interview, practice
- Do search about that company & its products & services in the news, twitter, blogs, annual report
- Prepare for technical questions:
  - String manipulation
  - Memory management
  - Algorithm optimization
  - Research, methodology, design
- Prepare for Behavioral questions:
  - “Tell me about a time when…”
  - Situation – Brief, lowest importance
  - Scenario- Medium importance
  - Behavior – Detailed, high importance
  - Outcome – Accomplishments, what you learned, what to do differently
- Never turn down a reasonable opportunity to interview
- Many companies have interview prep material online
- Have a list of questions
The interview (during)

• Be confident, dress professional
• Take your time
• Ask clarifying questions if you're unsure how to answer a question
• Show them you have done your homework
• You are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you, have questions prepared
• Ask “Is there anything that makes you hesitant in hiring me?”, then you can answer and put them at ease
Hiring Process: Summer Internships

1. Recruiter screen
2. Candidate profile preference form
3. Host-matching phone interview(s)
4. Offer
Hiring Process: Full-time Jobs

Recruiter screen → Phone interview → On-site interview → Hiring committee → Offer
The interview (post)

- Send follow-up/thank you letters/emails
- Stay in touch with your recruiter
- Negotiate your job offer
Negotiating a job offer

• By not negotiating a first salary, an individual stands to lose more than $500,000 by age 60.
  – Men are more than four times as likely as women to negotiate a first salary.
• You can negotiate for things other than salary
  – Stock grants, vacation time, job description, etc.
• Know what you are worth
  – Don't discount experience
  – Research online
  – Talk to peers and mentors
• Know how much you are willing to compromise
• Use other job offers as leverage
You have a job! Woohoo!
Career Growth

• Understand job level expectations
• Define clear goals and set expectations for performance
• Proactively meet regularly and make team and manager aware of progress and performance
• Actively participate in meetings (and sit at the table)
• Balance between being nice and making a point
• Be visible to your manager’s manager
• Take on stretch projects to grow visibility and capabilities
• Meet other people in the company over lunch/coffee, job shadows
• Find or ask for a mentor (formal or informal)
Career Growth: Advancement

- Be pro-active about your career plans (you can change your mind any time)
- Ask for frequent, actionable feedback (from manager, peers)
- Talk to folks at the next level about what is expected and how you can narrow the gap
- Work with your advocates to build a case for promotion before the decision window opens
- Find a sponsor
Resources

The Google Resume: How to Prepare for a Career and Land a Job at Apple, Microsoft, Google, or any Top Tech Company
by Gayle Laakmann McDowell

Cracking the Coding Interview
by Gayle Laakmann McDowell

askamanager.org

glassdoor.com

185 powerful verbs, TIME.com
http://time.com/3648812/verbs-resume-awesome