MS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB SEARCH

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Agenda

- Possible career paths with an MS degree
- Finding an industry/national lab position
- How to present yourself
- Writing a resume that attracts attention, the importance of your LinkedIn profile
- The interview (before, during & after)

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What can you do now to prepare for your job search?

What

- Develop your professional network

- Maintain an updated LinkedIn profile

- Research potential employers and talk to current employees

- Participate in hackathons, bug bounties and company campus visits

- Work on some team projects

- Attend networking events and career fairs

- Attend technical conferences and workshops

- Use recruiters

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Where can I get a job?

Where

Many tech jobs are not in tech companies

- Government
- Telecommunications
- Education
- Non-profit
- Research labs
- Biotech . . .
- Healthcare . . . .

There are many positions for Master graduates:

- Developer
- Program/Product Manager
- User Experience Designer / Researcher
- Data Scientist
- Software engineer
- Product Evangelist/Sales/Support
- Consultant
- Research Developer
- Research Scientist (go on to Grad School – yay!)

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Big- to mid-size entity

Scale

Resources

Career path

Specific role

Mobility

Start-up

Higher risk

Role breadth

Less bureaucracy

Pressure

Freelance

Range of work

Career freedom

Less constraints

Autonomy

Risk/Responsibility

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How do I prepare for the job market?

Internships

Google

How – Format Resume

- 1 page for every 10 years of work experience
- Use colors subtly and appropriately
- Use at most 2 fonts
- Align your dates and locations to the right
- Use 2 or less lines per bullet
- Use digits
- Achievements section … don't
- Objective or Summary
- Use action verbs
- Online profiles
- Submitting online … key words

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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 accomplish/learn?
  - Why was it important?
  - Technical challenges?
- Why are you interested in this particular company?
  - What is its story?
  - Where is it going?
  - How do they treat their employees?
  - What are their career paths?

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How – Finding Opportunities

- Use your professional network
- Ask friends that are already working for help
- Use recruiters and campus recruiting office
- Join lists and groups that advertise jobs
- Company campus visits
- Conferences
- Search broadly – if an entity looks interesting, reach out to them

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Interview – get ready

- Review fundamentals: algorithms, data structures, strings, recursion, graphs
- Practice coding on a whiteboard; it is not easy or intuitive!
- Find sample questions online
- Question might be vague: ask!
- Talk through your solutions
  - show your thought process
  - highlight trade-offs and issues with performance, security, robustness, usability, portability, scalability, libraries, etc.
- For each one: people, project, current news

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Interview

- Tell me about yourself
  - I am … I finished … I am interested … I recently…
- Tell me about a time when …
  - ❖ **S**ituation, background set the scene
  - ❖ **T**ask, specifics of what's required, when, where
  - ❖ **A**ction, what you did, skills used, behaviours
  - ❖ **R**esult – Outcome, what happened?

You need to practice your answers out loud, to ensure it's continuity and that you don't go over 2 minutes.

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Exercise

1. Tell me about an error in judgment you made in the last year or two, what was the impact of it?
2. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

3. Tell me about a time you made a difficult decision and how you knew it was the right solution?
4. What do you consider to be your greatest strength?

The interview (post)

- Send follow-up/thank you letters/emails

- Stay in touch with your recruiter

- Negotiate your job offer

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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

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Questions?