

March 7th 2017

IT Job Hunters Meeting Notes

In attendance:

Beth Kieler, Jennilee Benda, Yusheng Hou, Erik Oslawski, Paul Thornhill

Meeting Topic:

During this meeting, we had a few new members who introduced themselves. We discussed our skill sets and talked about why having a comprehensive skill list is important.

Having a comprehensive list of your skills (no matter how old or what level you have them) is good for a few reasons:

1. It allows you to understand things you know and then you can identify areas where you need to study.
2. It allows you to customize your resume for a specific listing you are applying for so that you can highlight important skills rather than just listing everything.
3. It is a good thing to have if you are using a headhunter to search for positions.

On the meetup listing, Beth linked to a webpage where you can start to build your skill list, we looked at it. (<http://www.synergistech.com/skill-list.shtml>) This list is somewhat old and nowhere near comprehensive, but it is a good starting point for you to come up with other items to add to your list. (Don't forget soft skills!) It's also important to not under-evaluate yourself. Paul suggested that you could google for tech interview questions that cover a specific skill and if you can answer them or easily find the answers to them, it will give you a better idea of your skill level. It is also a good idea to sell your ability to learn in an interview. In terms of showcasing your skills, it's always a good idea to have a GitHub repository of code/programs you've written (or a portfolio site if you're a web designer/developer) on your own to showcase your skills and show off in an interview. If you can't exactly show your code easily, it's also not a bad idea to display your application life-cycle skills and planning skills by laying out how you built something/would build something.

Other things of note:

Next week's location is still a bit up in the air. Please go to the meetup page and RSVP so Beth has an idea of headcount so she can better plan a place to meet.

There is a UIUC career fair on Thursday March 9th. If you are interested in attending contact Beth and RSVP so she can let the organizers know how many of us to expect and she can give you the information.

There is also a Tech Talk Thursday March 9th that is co-hosted by CU Coffee Shop Coders and PyCu. Please see this link for more details: <https://www.meetup.com/CU-Coffeeshop-Coders/events/237226458/>

Jennilee has put up a reference page for our group to use for reference links and meeting notes in case folks miss meetings. It can be found at <http://jennileerose.com/cucoffeeeshopcoders/reference.html>