Techie BABY

The Proven Method

to Choose a Tech role
that Connects with Your Passion

Do I have a *calling* in tech?
If so, what tech role fits my passion?

The four proven steps to discover your passion in tech

Step 1 : Research one tech role online - Part 1 (Research)

Time Needed : 3 Hours

- You need to have the expectation that you will not be 100% knowledgable about the role you choose after finishing the action item for step 1, 2, and 3.

- Choose one title among 15 tech roles listed in Mashable.

For example, Front-end web developer appeals to you.

- Identify the tasks associated with the job title.

5. Front-end web developers

There's a shortage in front-end web development talent but high demand for their skill set. We're almost looking for a "unicorn": someone who codes but also possesses an eye for design. Due to the digital and mobile shift, more clients require updated sites and apps. In order to meet this demand, we'll need to recruit an experienced front-end web developer.

- Start the research broadly - Google search "Introduction to [job nature]"

introduction to front-end web development

All   Videos   Images   News   More ▾   Search tools

About 10,500,000 results (0.21 seconds)

Intro to Front End Web Development - YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJR-TbIjb2w
Aug 18, 2014 - Uploaded by CodeBabes
Let's talk **front end**, I don't have a bad **front end** either right?
Front end is all the stuff that makes the **web** ...

Learn Web Development 101 -- Introduction to the Front End
www.theodinproject.com/**web-development**.../**introduction**-to-the-**front-e**... ▾
Front end web development is NOT design (you won't be playing around in Photoshop or anything), but a **front end** developer does apply the work of designers ...

- Start the research broadly again - Wikipedia search "[job nature]"

Action item : Prepare a notepad and a pen. Complete the worksheet Here

Are you interested in the job nature after finishing the action item?

If yes, then move on to step 2.

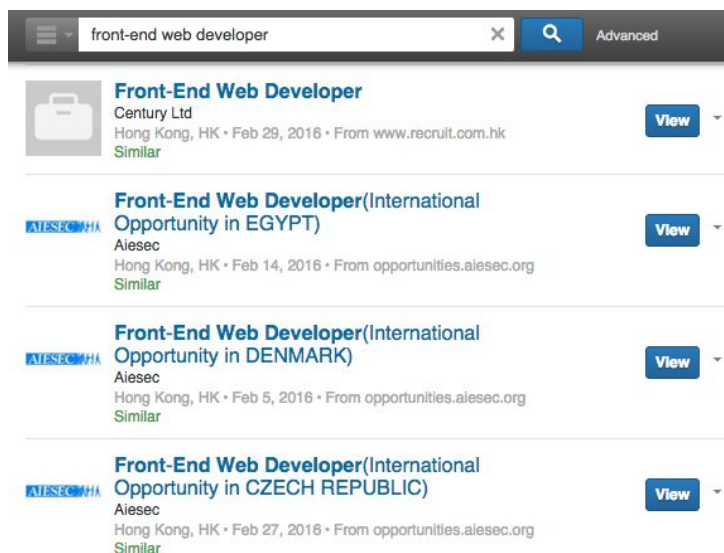If no, then you invested 3 hours to eliminate an undesired calling.

Step 2 : Research one tech role online - Part 2 (Research)

Time Needed : 2 Hours

We're moving on with the Front-end web developer example.

After part 1 research, you will have a lay of the land, but you will want to know how the job nature is actually described in the existing market position.

- Start the research with a laser focus - Linkedin "[job title]"

- Click through the job title

Front-End Web Developer
CENTURY

Hong Kong, HK

Posted 1 day ago

Apply on company website   Save

Job description

Min 2 yrs solid exp in web programming field, HTML 5, CSS 3.0, Less, JQuery, AJAX, Nodejs, knowledge of modern frontend tools such as Bower, Gulp, Grunt, Browserify, Webpack is a plus
An attractive remuneration package including 5 days work base, annual leave, medical benefits, 13th month salary with incentive bonus and excellent development opportunities will be offered to the right candidate. Interested candidates, please email to ccrecruit@biznetvigator.com (Century Ltd) for further information / obtain application details.
Personal data collected will be used for recruitment purpose only
Five-Day Work Medical Insurance Life Insurance Double Pay Bank Holiday

- Note down the job nature

- Repeat the same process 9 more times with different companies (10 is the ideal number to spot a pattern)

Action item: Research one level deeper for the tech role in LinkedIn. Complete the worksheet Here

Many people will stop at this step. They're scared away by many unknown job tasks.

Remember: that's okay.

You're eliminating undesired callings. Not everyone should become a techie. You should be grateful you have the ability to eliminate the techie-wannabe in an early stage.

But, if you're weird enough to find the excitement in the unknown terms...

You should take step 3.

Step 3 : Research multiple job roles online - Part 3 (Solitude Research)

Time Needed: 2 Hours

Do you find anything you don't know about the job tasks?

If you do, congrats! You're onto something great. The tech job chosen 5 hours ago appeals to you, but you're not sure if you can truly call it a calling.

Don't panic. It's normal.

A layman shouldn't understand an industry through only online research. You're like a little nerdy student who thinks a tech job is cool. You try to study the subject on your own and hit a plateau. And notice certain job tasks come up again and again in multiple tech roles.

You read tons of resources online and found out many unknowns with a perplexed stare.

When I was a kid, my teachers always left me with parting advice: ask a question only if you have already tried. So when it comes to the moment you've already tried everything on your own to tackle a question, but still have no answer, it's time to seek for help.

Go to the teachers who have the answers you need.

For example, Front-end web developer still appeals to you. But you find some other roles involve similar tasks. For example: Back-end web developer, software engineer, analyst programmer, etc. No matter what the job title is, you often see certain terms come up. Hence, you might have questions like:

- What does agile web development look like?
- How is front-end web developing different from back-end web developing?
- How does a company choose which programming language to work with?
- Why do Ruby, Node.js and PHP come up so often in a web developer job requirement?
- What does your work look like on a daily basis?

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If you are new to the web developing field, I am sure you don't have the ability to ask the first four questions without research. I call them quality questions, which seasoned practitioners are willing to answer. Veterans know at the first moment if you haven't done your homework. People are generous to help out only if you are serious about what you are asking.

You're not a kid. Don't do what I did - ask a question without trying on your own.

Action item: create a list of quality questions. Complete the worksheet Here

Ready for the fun part?

Ready to explore the unknowns in tech to calm down the butterflies in your stomach?

Let's head over to….

Step 4 : Research multiple tech roles with techies (Dynamic Research)

Time Needed : 2 Months

When I was in high school, eating a hot dog in the cafeteria with a bunch of guys, I was involved in a conversation.

"What the hell did I do wrong?" One of my friends had just broken up with his girlfriend. "I'm a perfect boyfriend."

"I don't know. You should ask someone who had dating experience." My other friend reluctantly admitted, "I haven't even dated so far."

What a valuable lesson learned outside of the classroom!

I admired my friend so much. He shouldn't be ashamed he hadn't dated. On the other hand, the poor guy who had just broken up with his girlfriend should feel shame to ask a question of a guy who didn't have the experience or knowledge.

Lesson learned: ask questions from a source who has achieved what you want

But you might say, "I don't know any tech person. I come from a background completely different from the technology industry."

"Where do I find them?"

Do you remember the lawyer, investment banker, musician and the waiter who successfully transitioned into tech without a relevant degree or background?

We all started at a similar place: No connection. No background. No tech skills..

When I tested the techie-wannabe idea, and started natural networking, I had only three techies in my network, but I expanded my list of techie to 20 through both online and offline.
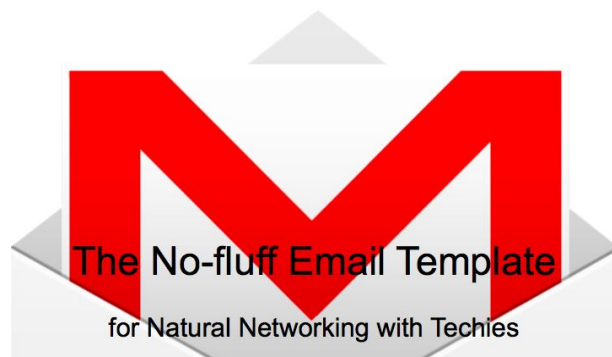
I tried to reach out to them. I called these techies, emailed them, sent them LinkedIn or Facebook messages, and asked for referrals from friends.

Most replied to my request. I did three coffee meetings, seven phone call meetings, and had seven email replies with extreme details regarding my inquiries.

They knew I was a techie-wannabe!

I sent 100+ emails, Facebook, LinkedIn messages and had 20+ phone calls to techies during the period of transition.

The email template below is the version you can use :

The No-fluff Email Template

for Natural Networking with Techies

Click to Download - Here

In whatever context you're in, once you get to the king (the techie you want to meet), and ask the questions you prepared in your research.

Each email, private message, phone call and coffee meeting will elevate your questions to a more advanced level.

In my case, after only 5 to 6 meetings, the techies started to question if I was new in the field. The questions I asked were more advanced.

Feed your courage wolf and do this. Many people are shy and afraid of meeting new people. But the value in directly asking the techies is huge. The dynamic research with techies are 3X more important than the research.

After a month of dynamic research, plus a day of research, you will know for sure if you're a techie wannabe.

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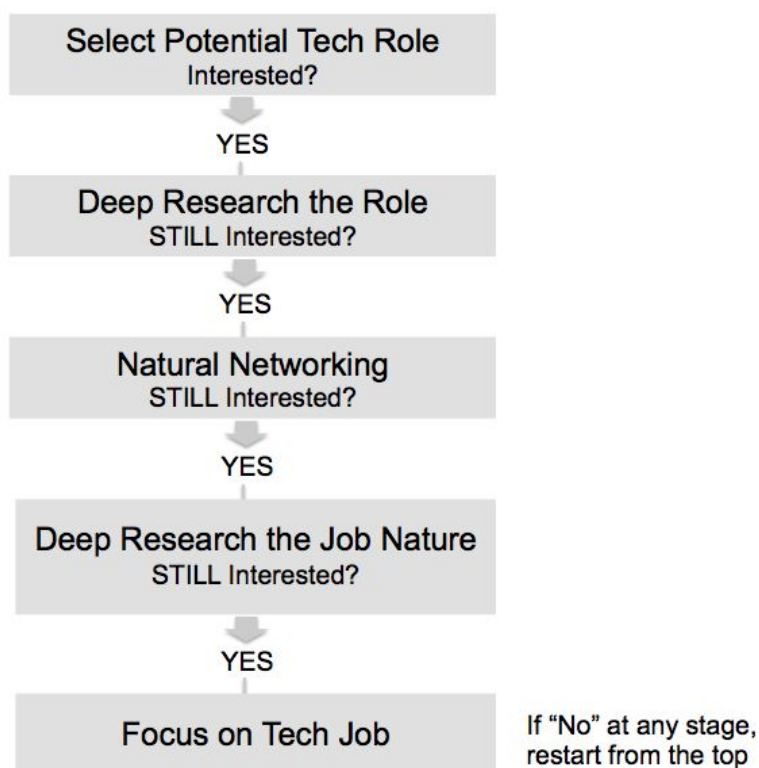**Action Item : Meet techies through natural networking. Complete the worksheet [Here](#)**

Don't move on to the final phase - How to Narrow Down Learning Materials - if you haven't validated your techie-wannabe idea.

Even though you haven't found your calling after the validation test, you'll have at least 3 months of net-profit.

The conventional way to test a job idea is to work on the job. But working on a new job includes four stages: learning the new skill, interviewing, negotiating, landing the job and working on the job.

So be grateful some techie-babies invented the proven method. Back to the beginning and test another techie-wannabe idea.

Remember the roadmap?

Embrace the benefit of the proven method. Spend no time on a job which takes you months to learn a skill, go through the job application process, work on a job for few more months and finally realize you made a wrong choice for an undesired calling.

Life is short.
Do stuff
that matters.

Siqi Chen
CEO of Hey, Inc.

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