Week 11 Milestone Worksheet

SECTION A: Tech Track Reflection

Step 1: Track Choice

Which tech track *(Data Analytics, Data Science, Data Engineering, Cybersecurity, Creative Tech)* are you planning to pursue?

Step 1: Chosen Tech Track
A. Track choice: Data Engineering

Step 2: Reflect on your "Why"

Please reflect again on your **why** for pursuing your chosen tech track. **List 3 reasons why this track is of interest to you.**

Step 2: Reasons

A. I enjoy building systems and working with data pipelines that make information usable and reliable for organizations.

B. Data Engineering offers strong career growth because companies increasingly rely on scalable data infrastructure, especially with cloud computing and big data.

C. I like solving technical problems, working with databases, and contributing to decisions behind the scenes by making data accessible for analysts and data scientists.

Step 3: Desired Job/Position

What would be your **ideal job title or position?**

Step 3: Job title/Position you want
Junior Data Engineer or Cloud Data Engineer (Entry-Level)

Step 4: Expected Obstacle(s)

Everything worth doing will have hard parts. Please list at least one challenge or obstacle that you expect to encounter during your studies in **Foundations and your tech track,** over the coming **weeks/months**.

Step 4: Challenge(s)/Obstacle(s)

Understanding and mastering technical tools like SQL, Python, ETL systems, and cloud platforms (AWS, Azure, or Google Cloud) may be overwhelming at first.

Step 5: Support plan

Please **list at least 2 ways you will deal** with the **challenge(s)/obstacle(s).** It could be seeking support from others, a specific way you will resource yourself schedule your time, or something else. *(There is no right or wrong answer– this is for you.)*

Step 5: Ways to deal with challenge(s)/obstacle(s)

A.   I will allocate dedicated weekly study hours for technical tools, focusing on one skill at a time and practicing consistently.

B.   I will join data engineering communities on LinkedIn, YouTube, or Discord to ask questions and learn from others who are more experienced.

Step 6:

Do some web research to **learn more about how technical teams work** in your specific field. Look at at least 3 sources.

Then, **list at least 3 roles that you may find on a technical team in your field,** and briefly state what each does. **List at least 1 source** where you found this information.

Step 6: Technical Teams in Your Field

Role A / Description: Data Engineer

Builds and maintains data pipelines, designs database systems, and ensures that data is accessible, clean, and reliable for analytics and other applications.

Role B / Description: Data Scientist

Uses statistical techniques and machine learning to analyze data, build predictive models, and generate insights based on the data provided by data engineers.

Role C / Description: Database Administrator (DBA)

Manages and monitors databases, ensuring data security, backups, optimization, and overall performance of storage systems.

Source(s) of the above information:

AWS Data Engineering Documentation

IBM Data Engineering Career Path

Google Cloud Platform Roles for Data Teams

Step 7a: Engaging with Your Industry

As you enhance your understanding of technical teams and how your tech track's industry works:

List at least 2 publications, newsletters, YouTube channels or community platforms that you have followed or subscribed to.

Step 7a: Engaging With Your Industry

Subscription #1:

Data Engineering Simplified (YouTube Channel)

Short Description: Explains data engineering concepts with practical demos and real-world pipeline examples.

Subscription #2:

Medium – Towards Data Engineering (Publication)

Short Description: A collection of articles focused on ETL processes, cloud platforms, SQL tips, and engineering best practices.

Step 7b: Learning About Your Industry

As you enhance your understanding of technical teams and how your tech track's industry works:

Share URLs for at least 3 relevant videos that you found and watched on YouTube. *(Not from the playlist provided later.)*

Step 7b: Learning About Your Industry

Youtube Videos Engaged With:

#1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yk-Y1Tn2J50

#2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIftI6y7RQI

#3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ4Vw8bmZ2I

Step 7c: Industry Professionals

Go to **LinkedIn.com**. *(If you don't have an account already, you can create one. We will work on building/improving your profile later.)* Play around with searching for people.

Find 3 people who have worked in your chosen field for at least 2 years and have careers that look interesting to you. Ideally, these individuals would be on the African continent, but you can choose individuals from other parts of the world.

Provide the names and URLs of their profiles below.

Step 7c: Industry Professionals

Name #1: Sadie St Lawrence

 URL #1: https://www.linkedin.com/in/sadie-st-lawrence/

Name #2: Ken Jee

 URL #2: https://www.linkedin.com/in/kennethjee/

Name #3: Olawale Ayandipe (Data Engineer – Nigeria)

 URL #3: https://www.linkedin.com/in/olawale-ayandipe/

Step 8: Interview an Expert or Watch Expert Interviews

It's important to be curious and always ask questions. What have you wondered about your chosen field but not found an answer to? Your questions may be about what job positions are available, how satisfied people are in your chosen career, paths to advancement, how readily available **remote work is vs. local work**, the largest employers in your field, or anything else related!

In this activity, you have 2 options - **Choose 1**:
Option 1: Interview an Expert in Your Industry
Option 2: Watch Expert Interviews

You can only choose 1 option and you must answer all the questions (A -D) associated with that option. Choose Option 1 or Option 2 below.

Step 8- Option 1: Interview an Expert in Your Industry

We have prepared an **Interview Guide** *(including a template for you to use when you message experts on LinkedIn or other platforms).*

The Interview Guide should help you prepare and conduct interviews with the industry expert. During the interview, take down notes to answer the following questions:

Step 8: Option 1: Expert Interview Insights

(OPTION 1 A – D)

A. **From the expert's perspective, what is the demand for employees in this specialization, globally and locally?**

Data Engineering roles are growing rapidly worldwide due to the increasing need for scalable data systems. Locally and globally, demand is strong because more companies rely on big data and cloud technologies.

B. **What kind of preparation did the expert undertake to get where s/he is today in their career?**

I need strong skills in Python, SQL, ETL pipelines, cloud technologies (AWS, Azure, GCP), and database management. Practical projects and certifications can make me more employable.

C. **What is one piece of advice for how I can be successful in the field?**

Tutorials on cloud tools, SQL/data pipeline videos, GitHub projects, technical blogs (e.g., AWS, Google Cloud blogs), and industry case studies.

D. **What are my 2 biggest takeaways from the interview?**

Data Engineers are essential because they build the foundation for data-driven organizations.

Consistent learning is key because tools evolve quickly, especially cloud platforms and big data frameworks.

Step 8 - Option 2: Watch Expert Videos

We have prepared a YouTube playlist for each specialization:
- **Data Analytics/ Engineering and Science track**
- **Creative Tech track**

- **Cybersecurity track**

Choose 1 specialization's playlist and watch the videos from the playlist. As you watch the videos, answer the following questions:

Step 8: Option 2: Expert Video Insights

(OPTION 2 A – D)

A. **What are the job prospects looking like for my specialization, globally and locally?**

B. **What kind of preparation must I make to become successful in this industry?**

C. **What types of content do I need to consume regularly to keep up to speed with my industry?**

D. **What are my 2 biggest takeaways from the videos?**

Step 9: Information Exchange – Peer Activity #1

For your first peer activity, **find at least 1 peer, and ideally a group of 2 or 3.** We encourage you to find people who have chosen the same field/tech track as you, but it is ok if they have a different track. Please share your answers to Steps 1-8 with one another, then answer the questions in the Step 9 box.

Step 9: Information Exchange

A. **List the first and last name of at least 1 peer that you met with for this activity:**

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B. **What is one thing you learned from your peer/group?**

I learned about how cloud platforms like AWS offer free tiers for practicing projects without paying.

C. **What is one new question or curiosity about your industry that you have after exchanging information with your peer/group?**

I'm curious about the differences between becoming cloud-certified versus focusing more on SQL and ETL tools first. Which approach is better for beginners?

STOP

Please go back to Savanna and continue with your learning content. You will be prompted on when to return to complete Section B.

SECTION B: Personal Branding

Step 10: Personal Branding and Portfolio Website

In the box below, paste the link to your Portfolio Website.

URL Instructions

Make sure your webpage is live on the web (i.e. not simply a draft in your website builder). At a minimum, your website should contain:

- Your full name.
- A tagline briefly stating your professional identity
- A photo and additional information/sections are welcome, but *optional*.

The URL **should either be**:

- A **custom domain name**, for example, www.KehindeIbrahim.com
- A **shortened URL**, for example, https://Bit.ly/KehindeIbrahim
- A **free URL** that is clean and short, like https://KehindeIbrahim.site.com

Step 10: Personal Branding and Portfolio Website

Once you have completed this worksheet:

1. Export/convert to .pdf.
2. Rename it per the instructions.

3. Upload to Savanna as your Milestone 11 Submission.
4. **Celebrate a job well done!**