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**TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE**

Lesson 8: Career Paths



GETTING ASSISTANCE

With regards to career choice, I encourage each one of you to do a proper research on what you want to do when you finish this program. After, you have to engage online career platforms and see the trends, opportunities, salary scales and other points of interest to you. This will enable you to ask specific questions to the lecturers and placement officers.

SO WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR THIS MODULE?

Understanding of frontend, backend and fullstack. At this stage you just need to know the differences and the languages required for each development career path.

So let us get started 

**Introduction**

The purpose of this handout is to make sure that you have a solid understanding on the coding bootcamp. You are expected to gain knowledge on bootcamps and their position within skill Upliftment for the youth.

The first coding bootcamps were opened in 2011 with the Code Academy in the US. Since then, there has been a significant increase in the number of bootcamps even in developing countries such as South Africa. I am pretty sure that by now you might know other coding bootcamps in your town. Following the increased popularity of coding bootcamps, some universities have started their own intensive coding programs or partnered with existing private coding bootcamps. Majority of bootcamps novices learn prerequisite skills and apply to bootcamps. While coding bootcamps may be selective and require minimum skills; Lifechoices aim to help youth with no coding experience but have passed grade 12.

**Try it out**

Can you name a few coding bootcamps in Cape Town.

Let us look for a university curriculum in software development. Can you compare it with the one that we have at Lifechoices.( The mentor will provide you with the curriculum. Which one do you think readily prepares youth for employment?

**So what is a bootcamp?**

Bootcamps are schools where you learn to code full-time - usually in person. However, you should note that some bootcamps are online and some even on a part time basis. The goal of a bootcamp is to take a classroom full of people who have never worked in tech before and help them get their first developer job. Coding bootcamps enable students with little coding proficiency to focus on the most important aspects of coding and immediately apply their new coding skills to solve real-world problems.

The goal of many coding bootcamp attendees is to transition into a career in web development. They do this by learning to build applications at a professional level - which provides the foundation they need to build production-ready applications and demonstrate they have the skills to add real value to a potential employer.

Coding bootcamps viability is based on the time it takes to produce a graduate in comparison to three or four-year bachelor’s degree. In addition, coding bootcamps curriculum is almost in line with evolving technologies whereas university curriculum is slight rigid in terms of responsiveness. Curriculum design in some countries involve policy-makers and even politicians. So, as long as one is still in office (which is a minimum of five years at least) his/her ideas are still the same. Only when a new person comes in, perhaps that is when the curriculum can be looked at. So, Coding bootcamps isolate the most relevant skills from a 4-year degree and infuse it with relevant industry skills to bridge the gap between the theoretical world of academia and the real world that meets the current needs of the industry.

Coding bootcamps focus on high-impact learning and teach only the skills that will prove to be most relevant in the real-world. These programs focus intensely to skill their members up with exactly what they will need to be successful coding in the professional world.

**Accreditation of bootcamps**

Any course which is specifically meant for vertical and horizontal articulation requires accreditation so that people know the level at which they join each course. Further, majority of courses that are funded by government require accreditation for the purposes of ensuring quality and uniformity. In South Africa, most of such courses are accredited and registered through South African Qualifications Authority.

In our instance, we do not have to worry about accreditation. Our focus is job readiness. It must be noted that the course is of such intensity despite not being accredited

**Structure of your journey**

The course is a one-year program. The year is split into two six months session.

During the first six months, you will be provided with face-to-face tuition, with more practical orientation, projects and presentations. From the academic department you will concentrate on two subjects i.e. Web design and Software Development.

In Web design, you will learn HTML, CSS and JavaScript together with REACTJS as your framework. These form part of your frontend technologies. A total of 200 hours is dedicated for frontend technologies.

In Software Development, you will learn Python programming, Database using MySQL and then Django as the framework. A total of 200 hours is dedicated for the backend technologies. Out of the 200hours: each of the two (Python and Database) is done in 100 hours. Your curriculum has been designed taking input from the industry partners where most of you will potentially be employed.

**Assessments**

During the course of program, you will be required to complete a number of tasks. Your success in the program depends on your portfolio. Some of you might be wondering- What is a portfolio? In the context of this program, a portfolio is a digital workbook with a collection of files that you hand in to be showcased to prospective employers. The portfolio is presented in form of web based application. Part of the content expected in your portfolio are your projects link. This is the bone of the portfolio. It contains evidence and proof that you did this practical work, and that you have mastered this piece of work. Please take note that the portfolio must be original to legitimise that you have done it yourself. If concepts are the same but to those of a fellow friend, surely designs and content must not be the same. The content must be relevant, authentic, sufficient and comprehensive. If English is not your main language, we propose that you must have your content (non-programming sections) proofread and edited. Typographical errors and grammar just put off a prospective employer. As an example of a portfolio: click [here](https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2013/06/workflow-design-develop-modern-portfolio-website/) for a sample of portfolio. You are going to be provided with an assessment criteria of the portfolio to give you working guidelines.

Exercises at the end of each lesson are compulsory and must be taken seriously. These assist the academy mentors to address weak areas and also in refining the curriculum.

**Summary**

In this lesson, you have been introduced to the concept of coding bootcamp. Feel free to ask any of the lecturers when in doubt or not sure.

Discussion

Let us find out the possible career path which you may also opt to take when you finish the course.

