



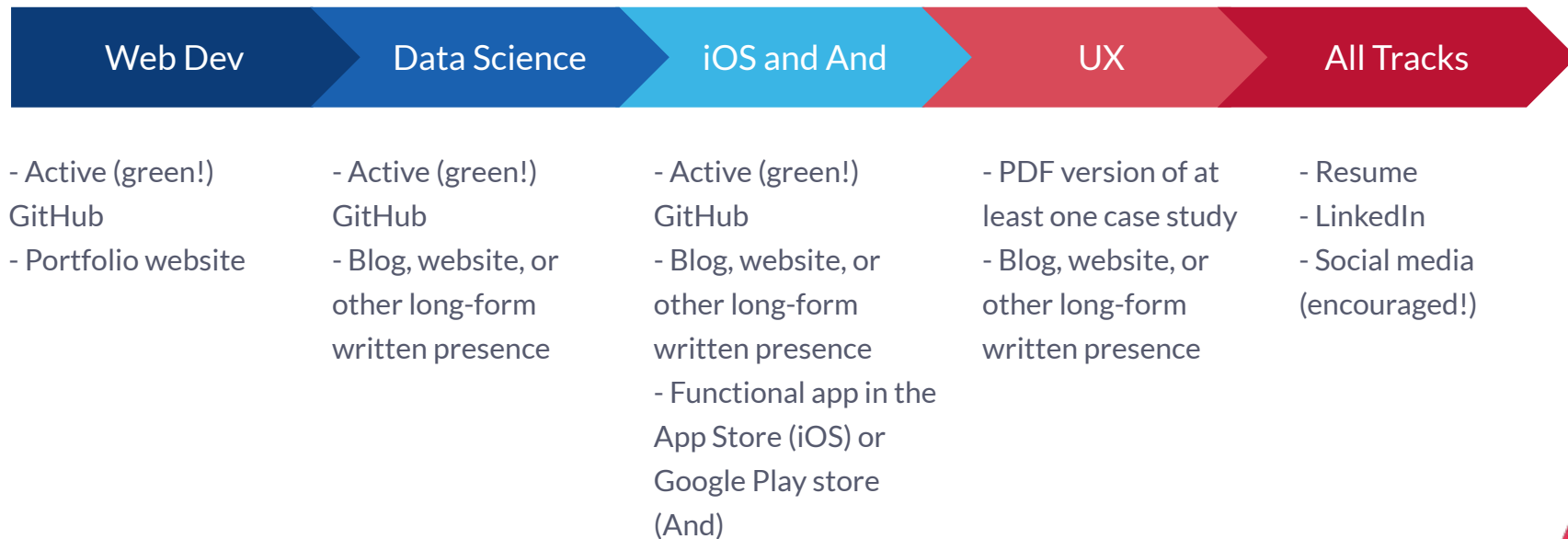
Portfolio and Artifacts



Goals

- Create field-relevant portfolios and/or artifacts to use as evidence of your technical accomplishments
- Effectively maintain both as you gain skills and experience

Artifacts by Track



A smiling woman with glasses and a plaid shirt is the central figure, partially obscured by a blue geometric overlay consisting of diagonal lines and triangles. The word "Portfolios" is centered in white text over the image.

Portfolios

Website Portfolios

1. Make sure you have a custom domain name with the format `firstnamelastname.com`, or as close to it as possible
 - a. We recommend Namecheap.com, and if you are concerned about cost, submit to Lambda for reimbursement
2. Once you have a domain, you can get it set up using Netlify, Heroku, or GitHub Pages (depending on where you host your portfolio)
3. If you haven't already, get started building your website:
 - a. Web students can get started in Jekyll, Gatsby, Styleshout, or from scratch in React- no Wix, Squarespace, or other template sites!
 - b. UX, DS, and Mobile students: get started in Wix, Squarespace, or Beautiful Jekyll

Your portfolio should include:

About me section:

- Full name
- Profile picture
- Personal “mission statement”
- Contact info
- Links to LinkedIn, GitHub, etc

Skills section

- All your technical skills
- Do not include professional skills (communication, teamwork, etc.)

Projects section

- All Build Week and Labs projects
- Code/wireframes for your project easily accessible
- Other side projects (as long as they’ve been peer-reviewed)

Your portfolio should NOT include:

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- Stock photos
 - Ads or affiliate links
 - Links to personal social media
 - Links to any personal interest/hobby sites
 - Political or religious content
 - Any content that may be considered offensive

Other tips:

- PROOFREAD! Have a couple people comb through it, and run the content through spellcheck
- Test all links
- Make it personal and give it some flair!
- Keep it simple
- Remember: this is your public-facing portfolio, and one of the first impressions employers will have of you. What do you want them to take away?

A smiling woman with glasses and a plaid shirt is shown from the chest up, looking down and to the left. The image is overlaid with a blue geometric pattern of diagonal lines. The GitHub logo is centered in the middle of the image.

GitHub

Your GitHub profile should have...

- A professional picture and username/email
- Links to other relevant profiles (LinkedIn, website)
- 5+ green squares per week
- Pinned projects curated at the top
- Follow at least 10 profiles relevant to your target jobs
- Code reviewed for readability and functionality

Your GitHub pinned projects should have...

- A clear structure to your folders- keep it neat!
- A README complete with:
 - A description
 - Installer or link to webpage
 - Screenshots or gifs of application
 - Unit test and clear explanation of how to run it
- At least one project showcasing a language learned outside of Lambda
- At least one project contributing to open source code

A smiling woman with glasses and a plaid shirt is the central figure, looking down and to the left. The image is overlaid with a blue geometric pattern of diagonal lines. The word "Blogs" is centered in white text.

Blogs

Best practices

- Blogs highlight your writing skills, ability to break down complex topics into individual components, and ability to share information with a non-technical audience
 - Your blog should be legible to someone outside your field-avoid overly technical jargon
- Check for grammatical errors (have someone read over it for you)
- Share it on your social profiles (LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.)

Best practices (cont.)

- Professional picture, summary/bio, and links to other profiles
- Post at least once per week
- Follow other communities/blogs relevant to you
- Each post should:
 - Have a catchy title
 - Be easy to skim, with subtitles and bullets to break up text
 - Include visuals
 - Link back to code repository (if applicable)

What to include, by track

- Data Science:
 - Show the entire life-cycle of data, and insights from what you're discovered
 - Embed GitHub gists, screen GIFs, and data visualizations directly into your post
- UX:
 - Screenshots of your work (from wireframe to final product)
 - Detailed explanations for your process and how you got there
- All:
 - Explain the implications of your work for your field/industry
 - Include a language, skill, or project not from Lambda School

Topics to consider writing about

A blog series

on a technology, skill, or process. Highlight your understanding and growth over 3-5 posts

A project highlight

either from Lambda School or that you did on your own. Include screenshots and/or GIFs of your project, as well as challenges you encountered.

A challenge

you overcame- did you ever get stuck on something? Consider writing about the process to highlight your grit and help others!

A smiling woman with glasses and a plaid shirt is the central figure, partially obscured by a blue geometric overlay. The overlay consists of several diagonal bands of varying shades of blue, creating a modern, layered effect. The woman is looking down and to the left, her expression is joyful. She has long dark hair and is wearing a red and black plaid shirt. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a library or study area, with bookshelves visible.

Other Artifacts

App Store/Google Play presence: iOS and And

- All mobile dev students need at least one app on the appropriate platform for their field
- App should be fully functional, debugged, and user-ready
- Posting in the store should be impressive:
 - Videos/GIFs or screenshots
 - Detailed description
- Number of downloads less important, but make sure you address feedback from any low user ratings

PDF portfolio or website: UX

- PDF portfolio is a good alternative to a web portfolio- allows you to tailor the content to a specific company
- Portfolio (regardless of format) needs to include at least one (preferably two to three) cohesive case study
 - Include a discussion of your process and how you got to the final product
- Dribbble and Behance: not essential, and more UI-focused- they do not highlight the strengths of a UX designer

Other optional artifacts

- Social media (esp Twitter)
 - Great to have, but should be relevant, maintained, polished, and professional
 - Follow as many relevant people as possible
 - Post a few times/week
 - Retweets don't count as individual posts
- All artifacts should link to each other
- Other types of artifacts: papers, vlogs, presentations, podcasts, and more!
 - Anything that provides “evidence” that demonstrates what you've accomplished



Keeping Artifacts Up to Date

Update regularly

- Update your materials when the information is fresh in your mind
- Save yourself time later! You have to do this eventually, don't put it off!
- Some artifacts (GitHub, blog, social media) need to be updated very regularly to be useful
- Set aside time each week to prioritize this
 - Friday afternoon for FT students
 - Monday A weeks for PT students

For Friday

- Update your portfolio! Make sure that any Build Week projects are included, along with all other items on the portfolio/artifacts checklist for your track
- It doesn't have to be a finished version, but should be something you would feel confident showing to someone in the field
 - I.e. proofread, clean layout, represents “you”
- If your portfolio is up to date, post in your cohort or sprint channel to find another peer who is also done, and swap materials to offer feedback to one another