

Speaker: Jeremy Rossmann with "How to get an internship in tech" - 11/3/17

About Jeremy: Jeremy Rossmann is the founder of Make School, a computer science and software engineering school based in San Francisco. Make School offers summer programs for high school and university students as well as a 2 year alternative to the traditional computer science degree where students have already received offers from Google and Facebook.

Importance of GitHub

Employers will view you as too junior to hire if you're not fluent in Github workflow.

It's recommended you push all your projects to your github regardless of caliber. Even having a number of less than stellar projects sends a signal to recruiters that you are passionate and enjoy coding outside the classroom.

Try to commit every day. Recruiters care about your activity and longest commit streak. A simple readme change or refactor will satisfy this.

- Do not post projects that were obviously a part of a class.
- Each repo should have a detailed effective readme showcasing the project. This sends signals that you're a diligent developer and can help explain complicated projects.

Personal Website

Regardless of position, having a personal site helps when it comes to getting interviews. While it's good to have it custom made, you can use a website creator if needed.

Essential Contents

- Photo of you smiling.
- Name + Title -- EX: "John Smith, Backend Engineer"
- Present confidence in your text. Do not portray insecurity.
 - Bad → "I may not know alot but I'm a quick learned"
 - Better → "I have a track record of quickly picking up new technologies."

Portfolio of projects.

- Link to repo. If possible, link to website, app store, data visualization etc.
- Attending hackathons are an effective way to get more projects.
- You should have at least one significant personal project that took >= month to make.

Applying For Positions

You should apply to at least 50 companies and often more. Regardless of how strong a developer you are, do not underestimate how many applications you will have to send.

Whenever you send a generic application via a job post, send an additional email to someone in the organization. This individual should either be a recruiter or the lead developer on a team you would like to work on. This message should be brief and describe your background, that you applied, and why you are excited to work on her/his team.

If a company you're interested in is not hiring, send an application anyways. They still could hire you. This also shows some initiative that could help you.

In emails only use first names. Addressing somebody as "Mr/Ms" is frowned on.

Resume

Be sure to exclude religious, political, or ethnic details regarding yourself. These details will worry HR since they will not want to be accused of discrimination.

Be sure to include personal projects and links to your github and personal website.

LinkedIn

While it certainly doesn't hurt, having a strong personal site, portfolio, and github is priority.

LinkedIn can be an effective way to network and reach out to individuals in companies directly.

Personal Blog

This is an effective way to showcase your passion and relative maturity. If you write well, a blog can showcase understanding of technical skills you write about.

A blog is also an effective addition to your personal site.

Not required.