### What is Hack Reactor?

Hack Reactor is a school for software engineering in San Francisco, CA. The school takes people who already know some programming and readies them for the rigors of an actual software engineering career. This is somewhat different than many of the "learn to code" bootcamps popping up all over the place.

### One week before Hack Reactor!

Here I sit, one week before I begin the journey to full stack javascript enlightenment at Hack Reactor, and it feels somewhat surreal. Even while completing the pre-course work for accepted students, it was easy to feel like all I was doing was just continuing to dive deeper down the programming rabbit hole. Our pre-course consisted of about 20 hours of forked private repos on github, and 20 hours of codeschool courses they recommend. When I first received the list of pre-course work it looked pretty daunting in the sheer number of assignments and links, and its been invaluable This week it got a lot more real. All of the students from my cohort, HR19, began to introduce themselves to each other through an ever growing email chain.

### Most of my classmates already program and are not 100% green:

So far, about 17 people have responded to the "lets get to know everyone email chain", and I would say at least 15 already have coding experience in at least a large project setting. Some are clearly self taught from a young age and can list off the alphabet soup of languages: R, python, C, javascript, java and a few more have been mentioned. Others were serendipitously pulled into coding in their former careers: academics who got pulled into PHP web work, investment bankers toying around with VBA scripts.

The application \*itself\* was a coding puzzle (literally you couldn't find a submit button unless you followed javascript syntax in writing about yourself). The next step was a coding project that made use of AJAX, html, jquery and some vanilla javascript. Finally, there was an interview that was about 100% technical questions (using callbacks and closures in javascript). Once I was accepted I learned about the pre course work that each student would self study before day one of instruction. Without too much detail, the pre course covers what a junior developer would be expected to know. With this as their day 1 starting point, the goal is to develop real expertise up and down the stack using javascript: node, angular, backbone etc. They also make it a point to teach as much relevant computer science as possible.