Job Search Strategy Plan

Your Name: Paarth Kulkarni
 Date: December 10, 2025

Career Goals (SMART Goals)

Goal 1: Secure Summer 2026 internship Position

Specific: Obtain a Software Developer or Software Engineer internship at a technology company for Summer 2026, focusing on backend development, full-stack engineering, or automation.

Measurable: Apply to at least 40 positions by March 2026, secure at least 6 interviews, and receive at least 2 offers.

Achievable: Leverage 2 years of professional experience at Accenture, automation expertise, Python/Java proficiency, and Northeastern's network.

Relevant: Aligns with career interest in software development, automation and full-stack development.

Time-bound: Complete by April 30, 2026.

Goal 2: Develop Full-Stack Expertise

Specific: Complete 3 full-stack web applications showcasing MERN stack proficiency and deploy them to production-ready environments.

Measurable:

- Finish Calendar MVC project (December 2025)
- Kambaz project with additional features (January 2026)
- One additional personal project (March 2026)

Achievable: Build upon current React, Node.js, MongoDB, and Java expertise gained through coursework.

Relevant: Demonstrates end-to-end development capabilities required for Software Engineer roles.

Time-bound: Complete all three projects by March 31, 2026.

Goal 3: Expand Cloud Architecture and DevOps Knowledge

Specific: Deepen existing GCP expertise from Accenture experience and expand to AWS for broader cloud platform proficiency, with foundational Azure knowledge for multi-cloud awareness.

Measurable:

- Complete GCP Associate Cloud Engineer certification.(January 2026)
- Complete AWS Certified Developer certification (February 2026)

Achievable: Already have hands-on GCP experience with BigQuery in Accenture.

Relevant: Cloud skills are essential for modern software development roles. GCP expertise differentiates you for Google interviews and shows production experience. AWS knowledge expands opportunities at Amazon and other target companies.

Time-bound: Complete by Feb 25, 2026.

Goal 4: Establish Professional Network

Specific: Connect with 25+ software engineers and engineering managers at target companies through networking events, LinkedIn, informational interviews, and Northeastern alumni network.

Measurable:

- Attend at least 5 networking events or meetups
- Conduct 12 informational interviews
- Maintain regular contact with 8+ industry professionals
- Connect with 50+ relevant professionals on LinkedIn

Achievable: Utilize Northeastern Career Services, Khoury College alumni network, Boston tech meetups, and professional associations.

Relevant: Networking is critical for internship placement, especially when pivoting from data engineering to software development roles.

Time-bound: Complete by March 31, 2026.

Experience, Skills, and Strengths

Top 5 Technical Skills with Examples

1. Automation & Workflow Development

At Accenture, I designed and implemented UiPath workflows that automated system monitoring and log analysis, proactively notifying teams of issues before they escalated. I built end-to-end automation solutions that reduced manual intervention by 60% and improved incident response time by 40%. My Chess Bot project extended this expertise to automate club operations, handling tasks like posting puzzles, managing registrations, and notifying participants, which enabled the club to scale to 2× membership without additional resources.

2. Python Programming & Scripting

Developed production-grade Python scripts at Accenture for data collection, cleaning, and validation across multiple enterprise systems (Power BI, Tableau). Implemented robust error handling, logging frameworks, and data quality checks that eliminated data loss incidents and improved reporting reliability for critical business operations. Created reusable Python modules that were adopted across multiple projects in the organization.

3. Backend Development & API Design

Currently building RESTful APIs using Node.js and Express with comprehensive CRUD operations. Implemented data validation, authentication middleware, and error handling for production-ready services. Experience with database design using MongoDB and MySQL, including complex queries, indexing strategies, and data normalization. At Accenture, managed data ingestion pipelines handling millions of records daily.

4. Full-Stack Web Development

Currently developing Kambaz, a React-based quiz editor application with Redux state management and MongoDB backend. Successfully deployed frontend to Vercel and backend to Render, implementing complex form validation, multiple question types, and real-time data synchronization. Migrated from local MongoDB to Atlas cloud deployment with zero downtime.

5. Object-Oriented Design & Java Programming

Designed calendar management application following MVC architecture with Swing GUI, demonstrating mastery of design patterns, proper abstraction, and maintainable code structure.

Top 5 Professional Strengths with Examples

1. Problem-Solving & Analytical Thinking

When facing deployment challenges with the Kambaz project, systematically worked through environment configuration, CORS setup, and cloud platform integration step-by-step rather than jumping between solutions. This methodical approach led to successful resolution and deeper understanding of cloud deployment architecture.

2. Persistence & Iteration

During development of the calendar analytics dashboard, I encountered multiple GUI component integration issues. Continued iterating on solutions, testing different approaches with Swing components, and refining implementation until achieving a fully functional interface with proper timezone handling and user interaction flows.

3. Adaptability & Quick Learning

Transitioned from primarily Python development to full-stack JavaScript ecosystem in one semester. Self-taught React hooks, Redux state management, MongoDB integration, and cloud deployment on Vercel and Render through documentation review, hands-on projects, and systematic experimentation.

4. Quality & Attention to Detail

My data validation frameworks at Accenture achieved 99% accuracy in catching data quality issues before production deployment. I write comprehensive documentation, implement thorough testing, and follow best practices for code quality.

5. Collaboration & Communication

Worked effectively with cross-functional teams at Accenture including business analysts, project managers, and client stakeholders across different time zones. Translated technical concepts for non-technical audiences and gathered requirements effectively.

Target Companies (Top 8)

1. Google

Why: Industry leader in software engineering, automation, and developer tools. Exceptional learning opportunities with access to cutting-edge technologies. Strong emphasis on code

quality, testing, and engineering excellence. Internship program is highly regarded with strong mentorship. Mountain View and Cambridge offices align with location preferences.

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2. Microsoft

Why: Robust SDET career path with emphasis on automation and quality engineering. Major investments in testing infrastructure for Azure, Visual Studio, and developer tools. Strong intern-to-full-time conversion rate and comprehensive training programs. Redmond office provides diverse project opportunities.

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3. Amazon

Why: Massive scale testing challenges across AWS, e-commerce, and logistics platforms. Strong emphasis on ownership and innovation in quality assurance. Known for promoting interns to full-time positions

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4. Meta

Why: Cutting-edge testing approaches for web and mobile platforms at global scale. Emphasis on automation and continuous integration. Strong engineering culture with focus on impact and rapid iteration. Competitive compensation and excellent intern program.

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5. Salesforce

Why: Leader in enterprise SaaS with sophisticated automation and integration challenges. Strong Boston presence with multiple office locations. Known for excellent work-life balance and supportive culture. My data engineering background translates well to their platform's data-intensive operations. Focus on developer experience and automation tools.

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6. ServiceNow

Why: Global leader in enterprise workflow automation and digital transformation platform. Sophisticated integration and automation challenges align perfectly with my UiPath and Python

automation background. Strong emphasis on platform development, API integration, and workflow engineering.

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7. HubSpot

Why: Cambridge-based company with excellent engineering culture and emphasis on quality. Modern tech stack aligns with current skills in React and Node.js. Known for strong internship program, mentorship, and intern-to-full-time conversion. Focus on product quality creates opportunities for SDET roles.

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8. Wayfair

Why: Boston-based e-commerce company with significant technical challenges in full-stack development and quality assurance. Strong emphasis on engineering excellence and modern tech stack. Known for giving interns meaningful projects and pathway to full-time roles. Local presence allows networking and relationship building.

Job Search "To-Do" List

1. Optimize LinkedIn Profile & Github Portfolio

Tasks: Update LinkedIn with current projects, skills and seeking Summer 2026 internship. Clean up GitHub repositories and add comprehensive README files and ensure code is well documented

Deadline: December 31, 2025

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2. Complete and Deploy Portfolio Projects

Tasks: Finalize Kambaz quiz editor, add additional features, like Inbox and calendar, and create demo videos and deployment links for it.

Deadline: January 15, 2026

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3. Apply to First Wave of internship Positions (15 companies)

Tasks: Tasks: Research and apply to SDET and Software Engineer internship positions at target companies. Customize resume and cover letter for each application highlighting relevant experience. Track all applications in a spreadsheet.

Deadline: January 31, 2026

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4. Prepare Professional References

Tasks: Contact Accenture managers, Northeastern professors and projects lead to request permission to serve as references. Create formatted reference list documents.

Deadline: January 15, 2026

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5. Complete Technical Interview Preparation

Tasks: Deep dive into engineering blogs, tech stacks, and recent projects at top 8 target companies. Prepare company-specific questions for interviews. Practice behavioral interview responses using the STAR method for top experiences. Complete 50 LeetCode problems to refresh algorithms knowledge.

Deadline: February 28, 2026

Professional Introduction (Elevator Pitch)

"Hi, I'm Paarth, a Master's student in Computer Science at Northeastern University, and I'm passionate about building software that automates complex workflows and solves real business problems.

I spent two years at Accenture Solutions as a Data Engineering Analyst, where I developed Python automation scripts and data validation frameworks that eliminated data loss and improved system reliability across multiple enterprise projects. I also built UiPath workflows that proactively monitored systems and prevented issues before they impacted operations, which was adopted organization-wide.

Beyond my data engineering work, I've always been drawn to software development. I created a Chess Bot using UiPath that automated club operations, allowing membership to double without additional manual work. I also developed an Online Examination Portal using React, NextJs, NodeJs, and web technologies, enabling teachers to create tests and students to access materials seamlessly.

I'm seeking a Summer 2026 internship in software development where I can contribute to building scalable backend systems, developing automation tools, or creating full-stack applications. I thrive in collaborative environments where I can learn from experienced engineers while bringing my unique perspective from automation and data systems.

What kind of projects is your team currently working on?"

Networking Events to Attend

1. Northeastern University Spring Career Fair

Date: February 2026 (check Khoury Career Services for exact date)
Why: Direct access to recruiting teams from target companies. Opportunity to make in-person impressions, learn about specific internship opportunities, submit resumes directly to hiring managers, and potentially fast-track applications. Many companies prioritize candidates they meet in person.

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2. Boston AWS Community Meetup - Testing & DevOps Track

Date: Monthly meetings, January-March 2026
Location: Boston/Cambridge (Meetup.com)
Why: Connect with test automation professionals, learn about industry best practices in cloud testing, meet engineers from AWS and companies using AWS infrastructure.

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3. Khoury College Industry Networking Night

Date: January/February 2026 (check Khoury College events calendar)
Why: Exclusive event for Khoury students to meet with alumni and industry professionals. More intimate setting than large career fairs. Opportunity to have meaningful conversations, learn about company cultures, practice elevator pitch in supportive environment, and make connections for informational interviews.

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4. Boston Python User Group Meetup

Date: Monthly meetings, January-March 2026
Location: Meetup.com

Why: Connect with Python developers and automation engineers. Learn about new libraries, tools, and best practices. Network with professionals who appreciate automation background. Many attendees work at target companies and can provide referrals or insights.

Bonus: LinkedIn Virtual Events & Company Tech Talks

Continuously monitor LinkedIn Events and company engineering blogs for virtual tech talks, Q&A sessions with engineers, and recruitment information sessions from target companies (especially Google, Microsoft, Meta, Amazon). These provide low-barrier opportunities to learn and make initial connections.

Action Plan Timeline

December 2025

- Complete current academic projects
- Update LinkedIn and Github
- Begin company research

January 2026

- Apply to first wave of positions (15 companies)
- Attend networking events
- Finalize reference list
- Enhance Kambaz project with additional functionalities
- Deploy portfolio project

February 2026

- Apply to second wave of positions (15-20 companies)
- Attend more networking events
- Complete additional certification
- Begin receiving interview invitations
- Practice mock interviews

March 2026

- Final application push (remaining positions as needed)
- Active interview period
- Continue networking and informational interviews
- Attend networking events
- Evaluate and compare offers

April 2026

- Accept internship offer
- Prepare for summer start
- Continue building skills in relevant technologies
- Connect with future team members on LinkedIn