Thinkful: Career planning document

This document will collect and organize your work in the career planning lesson of the prep course. Complete each section after reviewing the relevant assignment in the course material.

## Section 1: Explore the landscape

*Write your one to three paragraph reflection for assignment 4.1.1 here.*

After completing both tests two times each, I consistently come across a theme as a Data Creative with an emphasis in modeling, technology, and communication. This means my skills would be primarily in Math and Machine Learning/Big Data. I would use the skills to build and maintain analytics, apply them to gain insight, and then convey this information to others. This is in contrast to the other unique branches of Data Science, which can focus more on research, business, or engineering. However, Data Science as I understand it, is somewhat of an umbrella term that encompasses several fields relating to Data. Additionally, there are several unique job titles that can be characterized to more specific aspects of Data Science including Data Analysts, Data Engineers and beyond. My hope is that, as I continue to learn more and develop my skills, a path within Data Science will become more and more evident.

## Section 2: Job postings

*Find five job postings you're very interested in and post them here. Focus on one city. Don't just post the links; job postings have a way of disappearing after a while.*

### Job 1

* + Company name: Buzzfeed
  + Title: Data Scientist
  + Why did you choose this job? I chose this job because the company seems like a fun place to work. Additionally, they emphasized teamwork, and what I interpreted as work with modeling (innovation).
  + Link: <https://www.buzzfeed.com/about/jobs?gh_jid=1198895>  
    BuzzFeed’s data science team is diverse. The team uses data-driven methods to power decisions, inform strategy, build robust data products, and identify opportunities for innovation across the company.

### Job 2

* + Company name: Amazon
  + Title: Data Scientist
  + Why did you choose this job? I chose this job because of the company’s reputation and because it is focused on teamwork and modeling.
  + Link: <https://www.amazon.jobs/en/jobs/686366/data-scientist-alexa-skill-store>

The Amazon Alexa Skills Store is aggressively seeking a Data Scientist to be a member of a cross-functional team focused on user engagement. By using massive amounts of real-time and historical user data you will help research, develop and automate models for optimizing user experiences. Working with a team of software development engineers, a successful candidate has a bias for action and is most comfortable when testing their hypotheses using heterogeneous datasets rich with insight. You will be expected to challenge current methods while enriching the world’s most advanced speech platform.

### Job 3

* + Company name: Wpromote
  + Title: Data Scientist
  + Why did you choose this job? I chose this job because of the company’s work with other companies and because they perform models/forecasting.
  + Link: <https://www.builtinla.com/job/data/data-scientist/38568>

Here at Wpromote, one of the nation’s leading digital marketing firms, we invite you to “Think Like A Challenger” and push our clients to take on the 800 lb. gorillas of their industries. Our crew of 300+ digital marketeers breathes in marketing and exhales ROI, and we challenge our clients and ourselves each and every day to surpass yesterday’s expectations! Our award-winning campaigns have helped hundreds of companies from startups to Fortune 500 brands thrive. If you’ve heard of Toyota, Verizon, Forever 21, Marriott, Wienerschnitzel, or Papyrus you’ve heard of our clients. And we want you to join us in making our clients even better. You will be: Interfacing with business and engineering stakeholders to define projects, Performing hypothesis-driven statistical analysis and communicate results, Conducting deep and continuous exploration of heterogeneous data, Building models for time series forecasting, supervised and unsupervised machine learning, and optimization.

### Job 4

* + Company name: The Aerospace Corporation
  + Title: Data Scientist
  + Why did you choose this job? I chose this job because I am interested in the aerospace industry and because the position is in the Artificial Intelligence department and is part of a larger team.
  + Link: <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/search/?currentJobId=826621213&keywords=data%20scientist&location=Greater%20Los%20Angeles%20Area&locationId=us%3A49&start=75>

The Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Department is seeking a creative and enthusiastic Data Scientist to join a diverse team of engineers/data scientists/programmers with a passion for machine learning, data analytics, natural language processing, statistical analysis, and computer vision. We are a growing, innovative, collaborative department that makes meaningful contributions to national security space and civil and commercial customers. The ideal candidate is team-oriented, takes initiative, has expertise in one or more of the department’s core technical focus areas, is focused on development using cutting-edge technologies and frameworks, and is comfortable juggling a variety of projects spanning internally funded R&D to direct customer support for mission-critical space systems.

### Job 5

* + Company name: JPL
  + Title: Data Scientist II
  + Why did you choose this job? I chose this job because JPL is one of my dream companies and this job specifically focuses on Machine Learning.
  + Link: <https://experienced-jpl.icims.com/jobs/9750/data-scientist-ii/job?ss=1&mode=job&iis=Glassdoor&iisn=Glassdoor&mobile=false&width=1038&height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-480&jun1offset=-420>

Will be a member of the Machine Learning and Instrument Autonomy Group (398J) and will report to the Technical Group Supervisor. Will conduct research and development of machine learning technologies for application to NASA science and engineering data. Will implement algorithm and data processing methods for remote sensing satellites and planetary surface missions. Will publicize practical and theoretical work through conference, workshop and seminar presentations, peer-reviewed conference and journal papers, and NASA New Technology Reports. Will assist in obtaining funding through competitive grant proposals.

## Section 3: Your company hitlist

*Find five dream companies (whether or not they're hiring data scientists right now) and add them to this hit list. Focus on the same city you did for job postings. Include a sentence about why you added each company.*

### Company 1

* + Company name: Fender
  + Why did you choose this company? I am a musician, I enjoy their products, and I have enjoyed visiting their campus and factory.

### Company 2

* + Company name: JPL
  + Why did you choose this company? I have been fascinated by their work ever since I was a child. I admire their strong analytical sense and their commitment to large undertakings.

### Company 3

* + Company name: Fivethirtyeight
  + Why did you choose this company? I am a sports fan and I enjoy their work with involving data to forecast outcomes.

### Company 4

* + Company name: Google
  + Why did you choose this company? They are consistently voted as one of the best places to work and I know they have incredibly talented people that could help me develop my skills.

### Company 5

* + Company name: Tesla
  + Why did you choose this company? I admire their product and their mission to bring change to the car industry, and indirectly to the environment.

## Section 4: Find your people

*Add the data science related events in your area and find LinkedIn profiles for local data scientists working at the kind of job you want.*

### Local data science events:

* Live Session on Data Science Machine Learning
* All Your Data Working Together: Actionable Insights w/Machinima Digital Networks
* SoCal Talend User Group - Beachbody’s Cloud Data Lake Architecture & Harnessing Data Quality for Better Decisions

### Local data scientist from a company on your hit list:

* Kyle Hundman (JPL)

### First or second degree connection in the industry:

* Jesse Steinweg-Woods (Tronc)

## Section 5: Write your own story

*Make the work you've done so far concrete.*

### Describe your ideal job to an industry professional

I want a company with a start-up vibe that collaborates, offers great benefits and perks, and is aiming to conquer new challenges daily. I want to run regressions and algorithms, use classification, and implement machine learning to create valuable data and not just big data. I want to use machine learning to work on meaningful products/services that will revolutionize a market. I want to craft and oversee a team of people who share my vision for a company that believes in our value. I want that team to lack complacency, with a tenacity for learning more about Scikit-learn, TensorFlow, Spark MLlib, or whatever other package is the latest and greatest.

### Describe the same job to a non-technical family member

I’m passionate about making a positive difference and I would love the opportunity to work for a company that provides goods or services that benefit the greater good of society. I want my job to go beyond the company’s bottom line to create meaningful change. I don’t want to be isolated in one of the many branches of Data Science. Instead, I’d like to use my skills to creatively explore all aspects of a company from profit margins, to product lines, to internal staff, and beyond. I’d like to manage a team with diverse data skills that is passionate about finding and implementing improvements where possible, and completely overhauling processes when called for.

### Draft your aspirational professional summary

I'm an ambitious data scientist who specializes in machine learning to create and grow meaningful products and services. I have a passion for team-driven, quantitative analysis and my focus goes beyond profit margins into issues that can benefit society for the greater good.