**Elevator Pitch Draft**

Hi, it's great to finally meet you!

I am a lifelong tech geek that just wrapped up a degree at Boise State in my second favorite field, marketing.

I came to Boise from Bozeman Montana about two years ago to finish my marketing degree at BSU. After finishing my degree in May of this year, I decided that I wanted to officially turn my passion and side hobby, development, into my career. I signed up for a rigorous coding bootcamp a few weeks after graduation, and since then I have been actively making my dream of becoming a software developer come true.

During the past few months I have spent every waking moment immersed in code, building dozens of unique applications. Since the start of my program I have built Server side applications utilizing both Javascript and C# accompanied by mongoose and MYSQL. I have also built out full stack applications, building the client side using popular frameworks such as nodeJS and Vue 3. While building several of these complex full stack applications I collaborated closely with 3 to 4 other developers in a small team utilizing SCRUM techniques to plan out and execute successful sprints.

I am incredibly excited about the career path I have chosen, and I am interested in finding a position where I can continue to grow my development skills while also growing the company I am with.

**5 Interview STAR Questions**

**Q1: Give me an example of a time you faced a conflict while working on a team. How did you handle that?**

**Situation**

In my senior year at Boise State University, I was working on an intense marketing capstone project with 8 other team members.

**Task**

Our task was to create a functional predictive data model for a local grocery branch describing the future of mobile shopping patterns post-covid. As we started our project, I noticed that several of our team members were not showing up for meetings or participating.

**Action**

Although some team members were in favor of kicking these other members from the group, I knew that there was probably more to the story. I decided to check in privately with these individuals and found that the majority of them were simply displeased with their project roles, as they had been randomly assigned.

**Resolution**

Our next meeting I opted to have a reassignment of positions based upon skills/interests. After this meeting, each team member felt re-invigorated and worked autonomously in their new roles to create a fantastic final product.

**Q2:Give me an example of a time when you had to think on your feet in order to delicately extricate yourself from a difficult or awkward situation.**

**Situation**

While attending MSU in Bozeman, I worked at a small pet boutique store. This small store was well known for its high-end pet food/nutritional supplements so it was incredibly important for the staff to be highly educated in pet nutrition.

**Task**

In the span of a few weeks we lost some of our best employees at the store. The following months we were desperately attempting to hire/train new employees, but these employees continued to get let go by the store owners, as they believed they did not possess the nutritional knowledge they needed to be helpful to the clientele.

**Action**

I needed more workers for the main store, so I hatched a plan. I decided that I would create a dog nutrition “cheat sheet” that new employees could use to build their knowledge, while accurately providing helpful advice for the customers. I created an excel document with dozens of common dog breeds, their most common problems, and the products we could provide to help them with these issues.

**Resolution**

The new hires loved this document, and rapidly started adding to the sheet as new problems arose. Our customers were once again incredibly pleased with the help they received, and the owners were impressed with the new hire’s capabilities. Our store was once again increasing sales and customer satisfaction within a few months.

**Q3: Tell me about a time you had to be very strategic in order to meet all your top priorities.**

**Situation**

The third week of my programming bootcamp I had a family emergency come up, which only gave me a few hours to complete my weekend-long code challenge that was due the following Monday.

**Task**

This project was our first somewhat large javascript project, a cookie clicker like game. I had a grand plan for my project that I was incredibly excited to build. However, after all was said and done, I realized that things would have to change.

**Action**

Rather than panic, I decided that I needed to be realistic. I started by first shrinking my scope.I broke the project down into three small “sprints”, each with about 5 requirements. I assigned an expected time value to each task and placed the most important in the first sprint. I then timeboxed myself for each task.

**Resolution**

By creating/working within this more realistic framework, I was able to successfully build out my project. The end result was certainly not the impressive project I had planned, but I was able to produce a completed project that earned me a passing grade.

**Q4: Describe a time when you saw some problem and took the initiative to correct it rather than waiting for someone else to do it.**

**Situation**

While I was attending university, my brother’s fiance was diagnosed with a very rare brain cancer. To get the treatment she needed, they would need to fly out to San Diego and stay in a hotel room while she began treatment.

**Task**

I knew that they certainly could not afford this, as they were both broke college students like me at the time. I decided that, although I couldn't personally give them the money, I could possibly use my marketing skills to get them the money they needed through a Go Fund Me. I set up the Go Fund Me that night and began looking at potential marketing avenues.

**Action**

I created unique posts on several social media platforms with the link embedded, and boosted them to certain groups. I built these groups of targeted individuals based upon common sympathies.

**Resolution**

After only a week the project was fully funded, and I was able to give my brother and his fiance a significant portion of the money they needed.

**Q5: Tell me about a time when you had to rely on written communication to get your ideas across to your team.**

**Situation**

For the past 4 years I have been slowly building an ambitious multiplayer video game, MUDA. To help me with this project, I have been hiring several “employees” on a website called Fiverr.

**Task**

About two years ago I began looking for a graphic designer to model/build out a landscape for my project. This would be an incredibly expensive/intensive task with very specific requirements. The artist I chose did not speak English as his first language, but was incredibly talented.

**Action**

To help with the communication I decided to write out a multi-page schematic of the design specifications. I used basic English that I believed would be incredibly easy to translate if necessary, and created a labeled schematic that he could use to ask for clarification with a specific section of the document. He loved the design and we both found it incredibly helpful with clarifying any issues as they arose.

**Resolution**

This document ended up expediting the process, and easing any frustration that could have arisen from miscommunication. At the end of our time working together, not only did I have a map designed to my specifications, but I also had built a strong relationship with my colleague.

**How to Stand Out In An Interview**

Standing out during an interview is incredibly difficult, especially in a career field like software development where many candidates often have exceptional talent. I have very average software development skills, but I do have other skills/passions that I possess that I can lean on during my interview. To stand out from the other candidates, I will emphasize my marketing background, and the soft skills I have developed on the way to obtaining my degree. Furthermore, I can emphasize the tech-centered side projects I have worked on over the past decade to demonstrate my self-drive and ambition in my new field. Most importantly, I will focus on doing my research and forming a connection. Before my interviews I will look at the LinkedIn profile of the person who will be interviewing me to see if we have anything in common I can bring up in my interview.

**Whiteboard Challenge Review:**

This week Jackson and I spent a few minutes practicing two whiteboard challenges from Edabit. Although I have attended almost every whiteboard Wednesday, I still struggle to rapidly complete whiteboard challenges under pressure. Rather than focusing on finishing the problems quickly, this time I decided to follow Jonsey’s advice and pseudocode. I wrote out what I would need to complete the problem before I started working, and verbalized my thought process as I worked on each problem. Along with studying common whiteboard questions, I plan to practice this strategy before my first interview challenge.

**5 End of Interview Questions:**

1. How do you think my skills/experience could work to push your company forward?
2. What qualities or attributes make for a successful employee at your company?
3. Do you have any trepidations or concerns about hiring me as an employee?
4. What are some of the biggest opportunities currently being presented to your

Company?

1. What would the ideal candidate for this position look like?