**SPEAKER SERIES - 1**

**BY KUNAL NAWALE - FOUNDER/CEO OF SIG SCALR ON NOVEMBER 2ND., 2023 AT SNELL ENGINEERING CENTER**

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The speaker series featuring Kunal provided an insightful exploration of essential strategies aimed at navigating the competitive landscape of the tech industry and securing one's inaugural role, with a particular emphasis on the transformative impact of engagement in open-source projects, with Linux serving as a prominent exemplar. Kunal eloquently underscored the profound significance of active participation in open source, advocating for involvement in influential projects like Linux and fostering connections within communities such as the Cloud Native Computing Foundation (CNCF), facilitated through accessible platforms like contribute.cncf.io. Notably, the discourse placed a special emphasis on the art of developer evangelism, positioning it as a valuable skill set that extends beyond mere technical prowess, delving into the realms of community building and event organization.

The conversation seamlessly transitioned into the intricate domain of release management for Linux, with Kunal accentuating the critical need for a nuanced understanding of the associated processes. To equip aspiring tech professionals with the requisite skills, Kunal recommended authoritative training resources available from the Linux Foundation (linuxfoundation.com) and freecodecamp.org. The discourse thoughtfully underscored the practical facets of skill acquisition, with a spotlight on hands-on coding experiences. Attendees were encouraged to embark on real-world projects, replicate stable codes, and even undertake the ambitious task of building a SQLite database to fortify their skill set.

Visa challenges in the tech industry were candidly addressed, with Kunal offering insightful perspectives on potential solutions. The idea of securing funding from investors emerged as a strategic alternative that could potentially obviate the need for an H1B visa, providing a direct pathway to a green card. In this context, Techstars emerged as a notable entity that directly funds companies, presenting an alternative trajectory for those with entrepreneurial aspirations. The session culminated in a tangible and interactive dimension, as Kunal shared a GitHub repository (github.com/siglens/siglens), urging attendees to actively engage by starring and forking the project, thereby translating theoretical insights into practical application.