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.*

The assigment asks: “what data science means to you?”

I thought about this prior to pusuing a data science progam and considered the question even further as I started and became more immersed in the Thinkful program. I think the Harlan Harris talk and the Mango Solutions Data Science Radar helped me understand myself better, what I am good at, and how I would like to make an impact utilizing what I learn from the program and as a data science professional.

I agree with Harlan Harris, Data Science means different things to different people. There are different aspects of Data Science that are applicable to different people with different skillsets, experience, and area of expertise. The results of the Data Science Radar seemed very accurate, reflected many of the Harlan Harris points, and I was not surprised about what it descibed as my profile. It aligned to what I envisioned myself to be doing and applying with the data science knowledge/skills that I am acquiring.

The following was the result of the radar, I don’t think I can word it any better, each of the points expresses well what I think Data Science would mean to me and how I would leverage the skills into my professional role.

* All great data scientists are master communicators.
* After all, data doesn't sell itself; it needs a communicator to guide the way.
* You are able to lead key business decision makers into an ongoing conversation with data, rather than carrying out ad hoc analyses.
* You have a natural ability to communicate complex technical details to non-technical audiences
* You also have an understanding of the wider implications of the project, and so convey the key analysis insights to influence new business directions.
* As a communicator you also understand that communication is a two-fold process: explain well, listen well.
* You listen for business challenges, define requirements and clarify how data analysis can help.
* Even on projects using highly technical software and mathematical methods, you are able to speak a language that each of your stakeholders understands!

## 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: Salesforce
  + Title: Business Analyst- Salesforce DMP
  + Why did you choose this job?
* The direct impact of the role since it reports directly to the head of Client Insights & Analytics.
* The business impact of the role: *Data-driven story-telling, business process analysis to align clients’ operations to help clients frame decisions and drive actions that deliver bottom-line benefit.*
* Cross-functional collaboration with key areas that I would be interested in working with and gaining knowledge: *Collaboration within Advisory Services and across Krux departments is a key to success. In addition to working closely with Client Partners and Project Managers, the CIA Analyst will work closely with Data Science colleagues to deliver compelling, high-impact solutions.*
* My interest in story telling and providing sense to the data aliging to my data science radar inclinations and my prior professional experience in operational alignment and processes re-engineering: *In short, the CIA Analyst makes sense of and explains client data in a compelling manner and sets the foundation for ongoing use of data and systems by clients and their agencies through operational alignment and process definition work.*
  + Link: https://salesforce.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/External\_Career\_Site/job/New-York---New-York/Senior-Business-Analyst\_JR12041-1

### Job 2

* + Company name: Yext
  + Title: **Platform Manager**
  + Why did you choose this job?
* Senior level with leadership and managing execution responsibilities: *Manage & prioritize multiple inbound client configuration or data management requests and drive to completion*
* Client and stakeholder interaction: *Interpret client and other stakeholder requests, tailor your conversations according to their needs, and effectively communicate these needs to other internal teams as necessary*. *Partner closely with the account managers to ensure we are exceeding client expectations.*
* Hands-on technical data analysis: *Analyze and Import client or partner data, and provide quality assurance over the information and content loaded into the Yext Platform*
* Opportunities to build SME knowledge about the company and product: *Serve as a subject matter expert to clients as well as internal teams*
* Opportunity to drive the product strategically: *Test new product features and workflows and provide feedback to product management. Contribute to internal resources and deliver meaningful product feedback to leadership and*
  + Link: https://boards.greenhouse.io/yext/jobs/1068069

### Job 3

* + Company name: Blackrock
  + Title: VP, Management Information Systems
  + Why did you choose this job?
* One of the top Financial firms to work for with similar business aligned to my experience.
* Opportunity to improve reporting processes: I*dentify ways to improve the AUM, Flow and Pipeline reporting processes. Enhance and evolve the weekly and monthly reports*
* Leadership role: *Provide leadership, support and thoughtful guidance to junior team members*
* Client interaction and impact to product strategy: *Improve communication with our clients and partners, better understand their needs, and help deliver an improved product.*
* Data Scientist qualities can be applied: *Display intellectual curiosity and lead automation and data mining/engineering projects.*
* Data centric tactical and strategic thinking: *Support and lead tactical and strategic initiatives, including data migrations and systems/data integrations.*
  + Link: https://careers.blackrock.com/job/BLACUS4513/Associate-VP-Management-Information-Systems

### Job 4

* + Company name: Google
  + Title: Product Analytics Lead, Data Science
  + Why did you choose this job?

IT”S GOOGLE!!! Okay, maybe over-rated and a bit mainstream but worth including.

Role resonates everything about Data Science. This is definitely a huge stretch as it may be more data scientist development with heavy programming, math, statistics, and prior analytics experience. However, there are aspects of it that are appealing.

*Help serve Google's worldwide user base of more than a billion people. Business Analysts provide quantitative support, market understanding and a strategic perspective to our partners throughout the organization. As a data-loving member of the team, you serve as an analytics expert for your partners, using numbers to help them make better decisions. You weave stories with meaningful insight from data. You make critical recommendations for your fellow Googlers in Engineering and Product Management. As a self-starter, you relish tallying up the numbers one minute and communicating your findings to a team leader the next.*

*Leaders in Data Science can see different angles of a product or business opportunity, and you know how to connect the dots and interact with people in various roles and functions. You have substantial experience with analytical tools and techniques, and bring a solid skill-set in analyzing data and communicating recommendations. You will deepen your skill-set by working with analytical thought leaders across the company.*

*Data Scientists are changing the world one technological achievement after another.*

*Experimentation is at the core of what you do. In this role, you will work to effectively turn business questions into data analysis, and provide meaningful recommendations on strategy. This is a unique hybrid role that will focus on your knowledge of data infrastructure and your ability to drive insights.*

* + Link: https://careers.google.com/jobs#!t=jo&jid=/google/product-analytics-lead-data-science-google-building-41-1600-amphitheatre-2534021811&

### Job 5

* + Company name: Squarspace
  + Title: Manager, Data Science
  + Why did you choose this job?
  + I like the business model and product of this company.
* This job represents a longer term option, potentially managing a data science team years down the road.
* Link: https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=project%20manager%20data%20science%20team&l=New%20York%2C%20NY&vjk=5ef7dd57f8ddee84

## 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: Yext
  + Why did you choose this company?
    - I’m familiar with the company, was also located in the building I was working in when in my prior company. Like the size, the business model, product, data-centric technology, very good work culture, and awesome location

### Company 2

* + Company name: Blackrock
  + Why did you choose this company?
  + One of the top Financial firms to work for with similar business aligned to my experience. Extremely successful company managing a huge impressive ~$6 trillion in assets. Hires top talent and leverages cutting edge technology.

### Company 3

* + Company name: Bloomberg
  + Why did you choose this company?
* Great fintech company with excellent technology. Very good work culture, benefits, support of philanthropy.
* CEO is not too bad either.

### Company 4

* Company name: Patagonia
* Why did you choose this company?
* Their products continue to be of my favorites, great business model, they are not only responsible to the enviroment, they are engaged in driving significant environment inititiatives

### Company 5

* Company name: Spotify
* Why did you choose this company?
  + I am a huge fan of music, they have a great data/customer insight driven product, strong social/cultural impact, company is hip and innovating trends.I have firends that work there and see the fun culture.

## 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:

* https://www.digital.nyc/events/google-cloud-softserve-meetup-machine-learning-design-demystified-nyc
* <https://www.digital.nyc/events/july-18th-tech-start-ups-networking-party-wework-west-57th>
* <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/ny--new-york/data-science/>

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

* https://www.linkedin.com/in/zahid-zakaria-a1874a29/

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

* <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mingcho/>
* <https://www.linkedin.com/in/markkinsky/>

## Section 5: Write your own story

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

### Describe your ideal job to an industry professional

My ideal job would be in a mid-size company that is among top places to work with strong leadership and company strategy/vision. The company should have an environment that embraces creativity, be a place where I can work and learn from talented people, value teamwork and individuality, have an excellent work culture, and have opportunities for me to take on challenges and grow.

The specific aspects of the role would leverage the extensive experience that I have working for global companies, leading projects and teams, applying analytical skills to solve business problems and uncover opportunities, and most importantly leverage the new skills that I have acquired in the Data Science domain.

In the company and role, I would like to be able to analyze business problems/opportunities and translate them into data questions. Furthermore, take the questions and then utilize data science methodologies, frameworks, and tools to analyze the data, create predictive models to answer the questions, and tell stories about the findings to both technical savvy and non-technical decision makers. I would like to be the bridge between the fundamental disciplines of data science, the technical implementations of data science, the business implications of data, and help the business understand and make strategic decisions.

I would like to be engaged with new data technologies such as machine learning, artificial intelligence, and cloud (where data accessibility, size, and processing can be limitless), and lead initiatives to evolve the company’s data strategy capitalizing on latest data innovation trends.

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

My ideal job would be in a mid-size company that is among top places to work with strong leadership and company strategy/vision. The company should have an environment that embraces creativity, be a place where I can work and learn from talented people, value teamwork and individuality, have an excellent work culture, and have opportunities for me to take on challenges and grow. Working for a boss that’s a good person and who has good work ethics, working with a good team with fun people, having competitive pay, and good benefits would all be a plus.

The specific aspects of the job would leverage my extensive experience working for global companies, leading projects and teams, applying analytical skills to solve business problems and identify opportunities, and most importantly leverage the new skills that I have acquired in the Data Science domain.

In the company and role, I would like to be able to analyze business problems/opportunities using the wealth of data and information of a company, business, market, customers, and industry to create predictive assessments, and tell stories about the findings to both technical savvy and non-technical decision makers. I would like to establish and present the business implications of data, and help the business understand and make strategic decisions.

I would like to be engaged with new technologies such as machine learning, artificial intelligence, and cloud (where data accessibility, size and processing can be limitless), and lead initiatives to evolve the company’s strategy capitalizing on latest technical innovation trends.

### Draft your aspirational professional summary

I've always been a nerd about data, I obsess over it. I find myself being overly analytical for fun and in my career. Throughout my professional years, I've enjoyed spending more hours than necessary analyzing and understanding data, because I feel the need to know the truth about a problem, an opportunity, and I get excited when data can tell a story.

I have worked for global companies, led projects and teams, applied analytical skills to solve business problems and identify opportunities, and most importantly I like to leverage the skills that I have developed in Data Science.

I would like to be able to analyze business problems/opportunities using the wealth of data and information of a company, business, market, customers, and industry to create predictive assessments, and tell stories about the findings to both technical savvy and non-technical decision makers. I would like to establish and present the business implications of data, and help the business understand and make strategic decisions.

I hope to be engaged with new technologies such as machine learning, artificial intelligence, and cloud (where data accessibility, size and processing can be limitless), and lead initiatives to evolve the company’s strategy capitalizing on latest technical innovation trends. I want to be one of the people that can hold onto and apply the human aspect and qualities that will be crucial differentiators in the future of machine learning and robotics.