Internship Safari - Fall 2015

what are they? why do you want one? how do you get the right one?

Before we start our ride…

- These are all opinions based on our experience.

- No opinion is the same.

- No internship is the same.

- No journey is the same.

- These slides do NOT cover everything.

- All hands and feet inside the car at all times.

Meet the crew...

Name

Year

Internship/Offer experience

Map of our journey

- Pre Interview Stage - Alpha
  - Community
  - Resumes
  - Finding the right company
  - Getting their attention
  - Practice and Preparation
- Interview Stage - Beta
  - "How to not Spaghetti"
  - Behavioral
  - Technical
- Internship Stage - Release
  - Tips
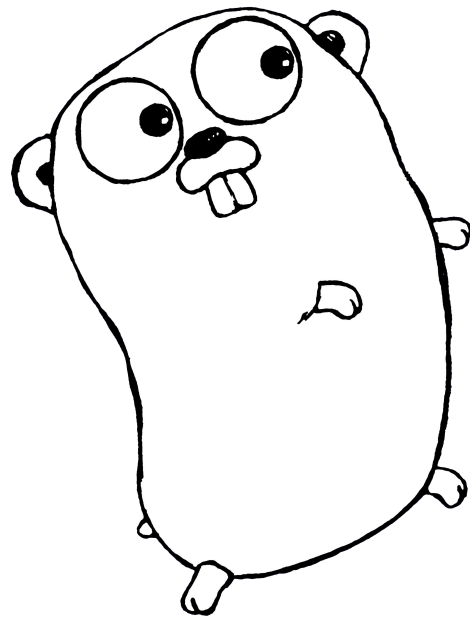- Post Internship Stage - Patch
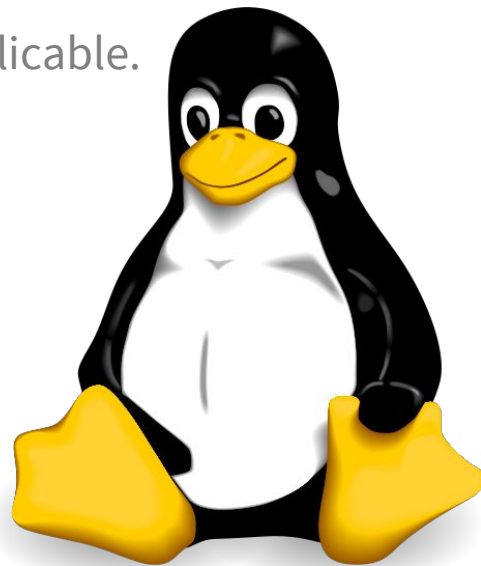 - Tips

Alpha Phase

Community

- We are defined by our communities
- Find a community you mesh with and are passionate about
  - Ex) UPL, Hackathon Hackers, GDC Scholars
- Get involved with your community
- Use your community resources
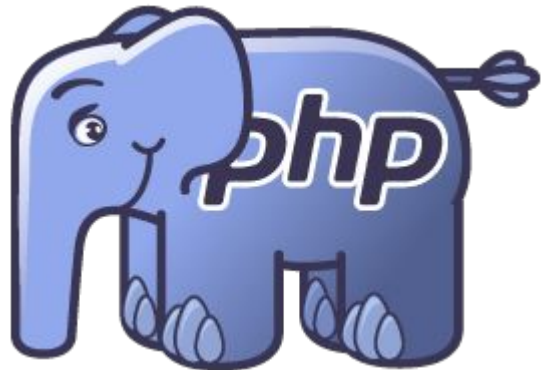 - You help your community. Your community helps you.

Resumes

- Many conflicting pieces of advice online - that's ok.
- Make sure the resume is readable.
  - Too much color is distracting. Bad formatting is hideous. Irrelevant information is cruft.
- Highlight information relevant to the company if possible.
- It can hurt, but don't be afraid to erase parts if they aren't applicable.
- Get feedback from your communities.
  - Ex) UPLers, HH Websites and Resumes
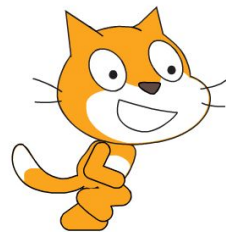
Finding the right company

- What type of work are you interested in?
- Are you interested in trying something new?
  - Beware of pigeonholes
- Do you want to work on stuff in your free time?

- Ask your communities for tip-offs
- Look up unknown companies that are at career fairs
- Search for companies online
  - Google, LinkedIn, AngelList, Hacker News, etc.

Practice and Preparation

- Know about the company
  - Pro tip: know some of their products, history, and recent events/news
- So many resources available!
  - Glassdoor, Cracking the Coding Interview (new edition just released), Your communities
  - Just Google "company + interview". You'll be surprised at what you might find.
- Behavioral Practice
  - Look at example questions. Answer them out loud. Make sure they're concise and are **you**.
- Do a mock interview
- https://github.com/cassidoo/getting-a-gig ← Cassidy Williams (Awesome Hacker!)
- But wait…

Practice and Preparation - Technical Side!

- Cracking the Coding Interview
- Data Structures
    - Arrays, Linked Lists, Queues, Stacks, Binary (Search) Trees, Heaps, Graphs
- Sorting Algorithms
    - Insertion, Selection, Merge, Quick
- Common O(N) Complexities; Ability to analyze a problem for complexity.
- Domain knowledge of your company (to an extent).
    - ex) Amazon/Riot - Scale and User-first approach; NVidia - Parallelization in C
- Practice with your communities
- Practice online - hackerrank.com, leetcode.com

Note: UPL is doing an interview practice night this Thurs at 7pm.

Getting their attention

- Referral
  - Again - this is where your communities come in!
- Career Fair
- Hackathons
- Their website
- Recruiters/LinkedIn
- Other forms of social media
  - ex) AirBnB Tweet about the Middle East

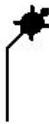# Beta Phase

"How not to Spaghetti"

- What is Spaghetti?
- Relax
  - With practice and preparation, you'll know what to expect
- Dress comfortably
  - ex) How I look now
- If you mess up or really can't think through a problem, don't worry
- Sleep well the night before
- Don't ever 'force' a question for the sake of it
  - Totally ask questions you're into though. Passion shines through!

forward 50   right 45   forward 25

Behavioral

- Practice beforehand.
- Be honest.
- Be **you**.
- Use this as your way to show things not on your resume, ie personality.
- General Tip: Try to get their contact info if appropriate. It can sometimes be nice to send a follow up "Thank you" email.

Technical

- Practice beforehand.
- Do
- Not
- Start
- Right
- Away
- Why panic?
  - If you don't know, that's great. That is what some interviewers want.
- Talk out loud. Don't mumble.
  - People are interested in your thought process.
- Ask questions.
- If you've seen the question before, tell the interviewer.
- If you can't get it, ask for the solution.

Release Phase

Tips

- Attend intern events.
- Meet other interns.
  - Say hello to your new community
- Ask fulltimers how they ***really*** like the job.
- Be an active member of the team.
- Don't be afraid to speak up.
- Is this the right place for you?
- Which teams are you interested in?

Patch Phase

Tips

- Give your coworkers a way to contact you
  - Email, LinkedIn, Facebook, etc.
- Don't let any company push you around for deadlines on accepting an offer.
  - If you need more time, ask for it.
  - Opinion: If they don't respect you enough to think about your decision, they don't respect you at all.

Final Remarks

Jordan McGowan

- Have a resume with talking points
- Be relaxed in interviews (It's a conversation, not an interrogation)
- Know what you want out of your position
- Be aggressive

Kieran Paddock

- CS Career Fair is an excellent resource
- ECS Career Fair has employers looking for CS majors as well
- LinkedIn has some job postings for Software Internships
- Ask professors about companies/opportunities
- Overdress slightly

- During an internship:
  - Overdress slightly - you can always dress down
  - MAKE CONNECTIONS (employees & other interns)
  - Connect via LinkedIn
  - Talk to other employees about what they're working on
  - Stay connected afterwards - don't have a strictly professional relationship

Leo Rudberg

The People's Employment Initiative ™:

1) Go to Hackathons
2) Work on side projects
3) Go to meetups, participate in communities, contribute to open source
4) Figure out what kind of roles you like
5) Think about work-life balance
6) Think about what location you want to work in
7) SWE is a lot of social stuff in addition to technical stuff. Working with a team and actively collaborating is a skill you should have

Vito Colano

- At the career fair
  - Know what you're looking for
  - Introduction
  - Appearance
- Before Interviews
  - Think about how you'll answer common questions
  - Research the company and the position
  - Think of questions you want to ask
  - Get in the zone

- At the Interview
  - Demeanor
  - Listen carefully, think before responding
  - If a question is confusing, ask for clarification
  - Ask at least one good question
- After the interview
  - Write down important information
  - Reflect

Nick Heindl

- Engage in your communities. (Did I mention that one?)
  - If you can't find one that fits you, make it yourself!
- Preparation and Practice is key
  - Mock Interviews and Hackerrank are great
- Don't worry about grades. Focus on learning.
- Make projects and go to hackathons in your free time.
- Apply everywhere. Especially small places.
- It's easy to get starry-eyed. Do not let yourself get pushed around.
- Interviews are a two way street. You're also seeing if they're right for you.
- Don't be afraid to say no.
- If you tried hard and didn't get an internship, **that's 100% ok!**
  - Don't beat yourself up; Use that time to make projects, and really expand your skillset.
- Never be afraid to ask questions during any part of the process.
- Honesty and passion are what get you far. It's easy to see if you're lying.
- If you wish, contact me on facebook or stop by the UPL and say hi :]

Q&A

SUMMARY OF SOME Q/A QUESTIONS ASKED

- Start looking for internships NOW (Currently September). For example, Nick started looking at Amazon/Riot Games in September, but got an offer in December/January.
- Definitely put personal projects on your resume. If they aren't finished (or WIP) but you learned something great from them, still put them there.
- If you get an offer from company A, but are waiting to hear back from company B, it is totally cool to ask company A for more time to make your decision.
- Look everywhere you can for internships. Career fair, hackathon sponsors, hackernews (https://news.ycombinator.com/) job postings(first of the month) [ctrl-f "intern"], glassdoor, linkedin, etc.
- Stop by the UPL if you want to chat with other cs students at UW!