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What does developer really care about?

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Most people might thought developers care about nothing but his/her computer… hmm… at some point, yes, but are you curious about what they really care or interested in?

I got some insights come from the Stackoverflow's 2017 Annual Developer Survey. The survey contains more than 50K responses and 153 questions. I picked some questions and result to do the analysis. Let's see what data can tell us!

Part 1: What developers care about when working?

The first question I'm interested in is what developers care about when they are doing the work. Are they want to save the world? No, that might be a question for super heroes:) But the survey contains a similar question: "Do you want to change the world?". I picked 17 questions which describe their interest and got the following chart:

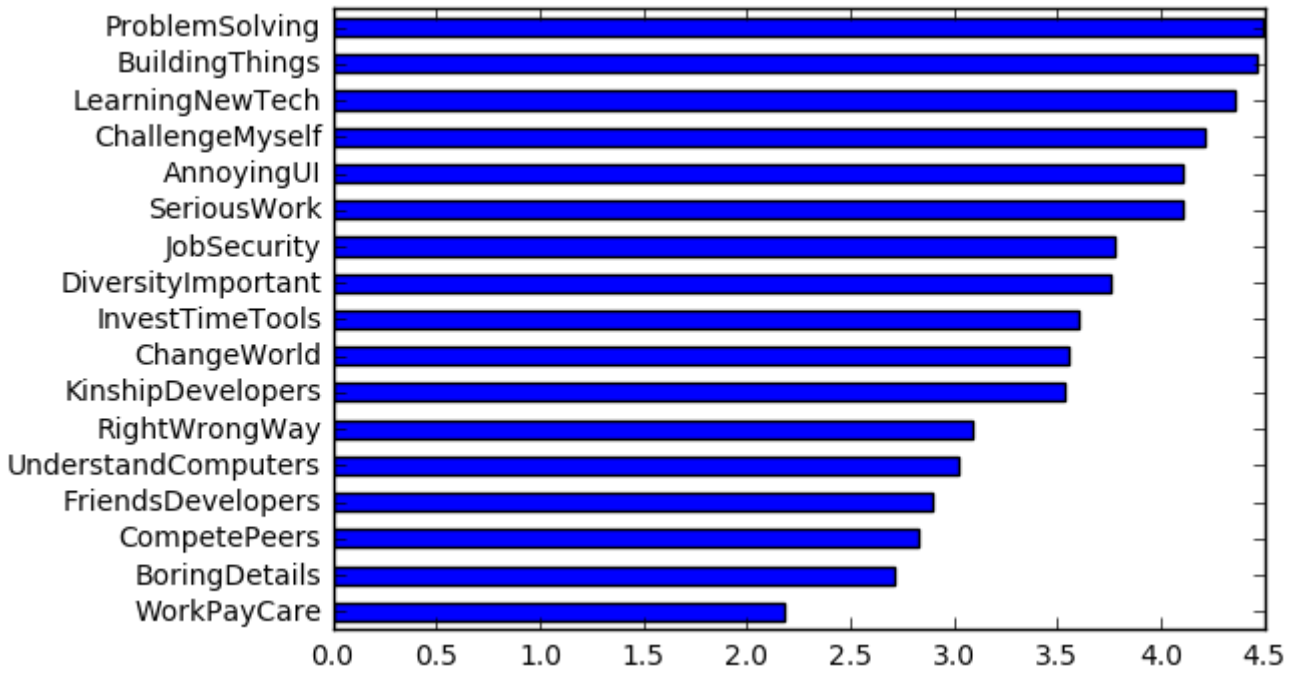


Figure 1: How much developers agree on these items?

The higher the number is, the more developers agree on these items. The data tells us **most developers love solving problems**. Other than that, they also like **Building things, Learning new technologies, challenge myself**. AnnoyingUI score is also high, which means developers also **care about software's UI**. And most developers **take their work very seriously**.

Meanwhile, developers are not afraid about details, and they don't like competing with peers. This might indicate that most developers not care about competition, and they're not aggressive. WorkPayCare has the lowest score, which means developers care about what they are working on, instead of the payment itself.

Part 2: What developers care about when seeking a job?

When developers are seeking for a new job, what they care about? salary? location? let's see how data tells us:

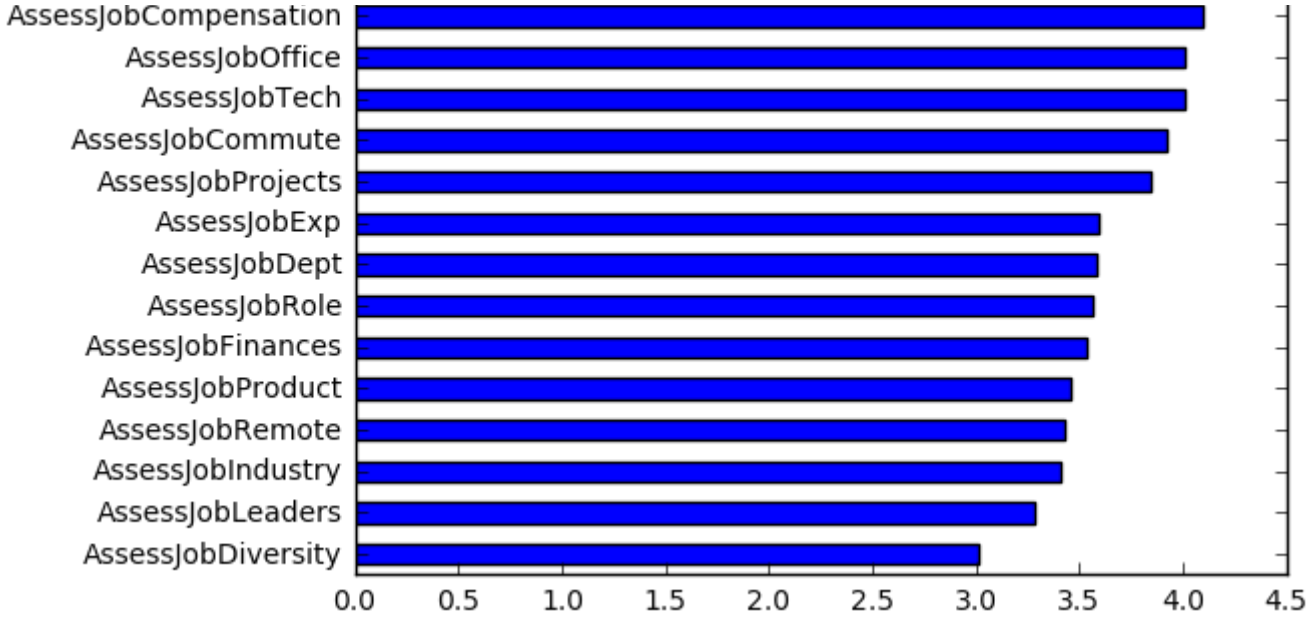


Figure 2: How important are these to developer when accessing new job?

First of all, the numbers distributed from 3.0 to 4.5 (somewhat important to important), which means developers don't have very big difference on these items. However, we can still see **Opportunities for professional development** is the most important thing developer care about. Other than that, developers also care about **compensation and benefits, office environment, and job technologies (i.e. languages, frameworks)**. **The amount of time spend commuting** and **How projects are managed** got about 4.0 score on average, they are also considered by developers usually.

Part 3: What high-tech company care when hiring developers?

In the last 2 part we explored what developers care, but in this part, let's take a look on what high-tech company care when hiring developers? The original question in survey is:

> *Congratulations! You've just been put in charge of technical recruiting at Globex, a multinational high- tech firm. This job comes with a corner office, and you have an experienced staff of recruiters at your disposal. They want to know what they should prioritize when recruiting software developers. How important should each of the following be in Globex's hiring process?*

Sounds like a dream job for a developer, how can you get yourself ready for that job? what should be prepared?

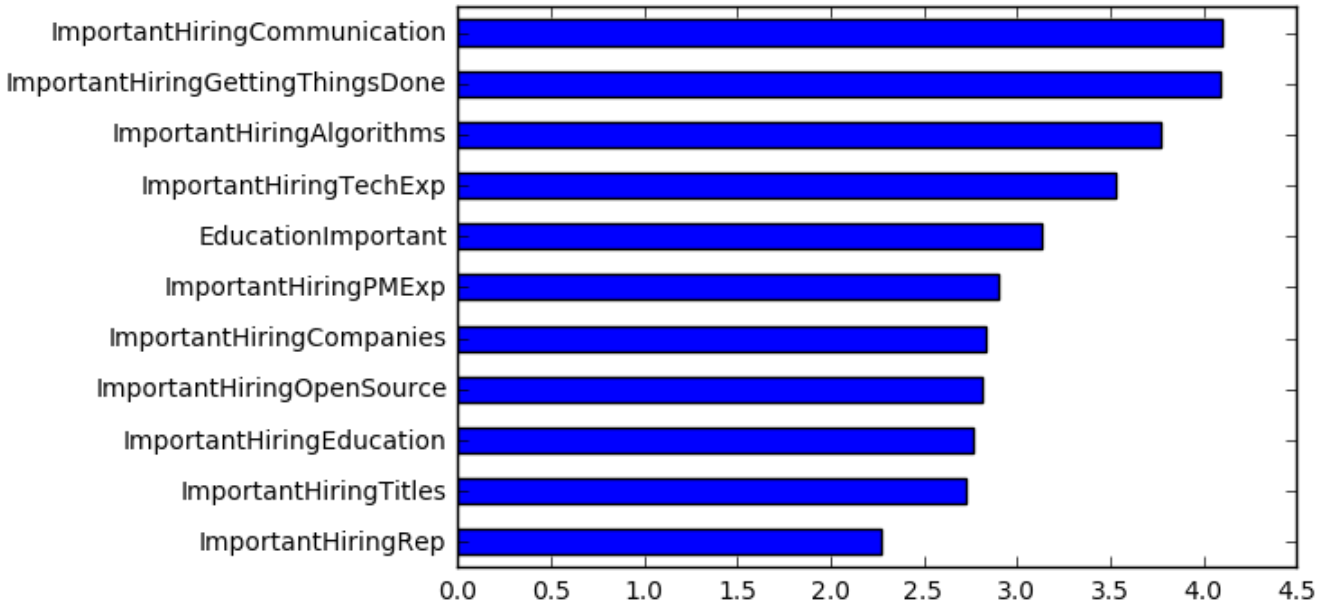


Figure 3: How important should each of these be in Globex's hiring process?

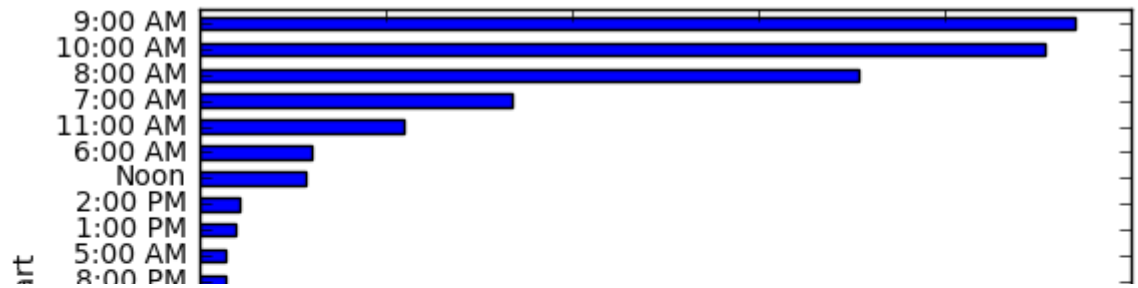
Surprisedly, the most important thing is not developer's tech skill, but **Communication skills**! We can see how important the communication is even you're a software developer. **Track record of getting things done, Knowledge of algorithms and data structures** and **Experience with specific tools** are the following important things. Of course they are, they are hard skills for developers. **Formal schooling and education** is somewhat important, if you can get higher degree, that might be a plus when applying a job.

Part 4: When most developers prefer to start work?

Last but not least, let's look at an interesting question:

> *Suppose you could choose your own working hours for an 8-hour day. What time would you start work for the day? Please adjust the slider to the hour nearest your ideal start time. The box next to the slider will display your selection using a 24-hour clock*

We know developers often work very late at night, some even say they have more ideas or think more clearly at night. So if they can freely choose when to start work, how will they choose?



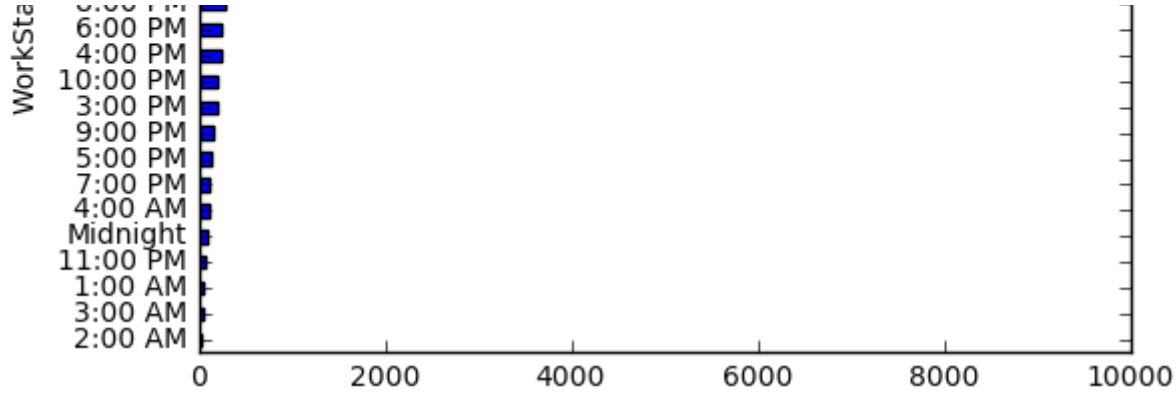


Figure 4: What time would you start work for the day?

Unexpectedly, very few developer choose start from night. Most developers still want to start work in the morning, around 8:00am to 10:00am. Seems most developers still want to live a normal life:)

Conclusion

In this article, we explored what developer's care according to Stack Overflow 2017 survey data.

1. Most developers **love solving problems** when working, and they will NOT only consider salary without knowing what they're working on.
2. When developers seeking job, the most thing they care about is **Opportunities for professional development.**
3. However, when developers become employer, the most thing they care when hiring software developer is **Communication skills.**
4. Interestingly, most developer still want to **start work at 9:00am** in the morning, not afternoon or night as I expected.

The findings here are observational, not the result of a formal study. It's my personal explanation, welcome for any advise.

To see more about this analysis, see the link to my Github available here.

Tech Survey Analysis