JavaScript Domination on the Job Market

- JavaScript and JavaScript frameworks are popular in the industry
- Demand for JavaScript developers is higher than the supply

According to the 2018 survey of HackerRank:

- JavaScript is the number 1 language employers are looking for. In total, 47.8% of employers post JavaScript positions

- There is a big gap between employer demand and employee knowledge in JavaScript frameworks. The biggest gap is with React: 33.2% of employers are looking for React developers, while the supply is only 19%. Scarcity translates to more money, less competition, and more opportunities.

- You can be a self-taught developer, because companies place significantly more emphasis on experience (90.6%), your portfolio (72.7%) than on education. If you market it properly, experience can be gathered developing your personal projects, which will end up in your portfolio. This means, in JavaScript development, only your efforts limit you, there are no gatekeepers, universities, internships, or certification industries. In Berlin/Germany for instance, you can become a self-taught programmer on your own, and you can get hired for a higher salary than the average salary for a German citizen. In case of many cities or remote work opportunities, the same principle applies.

- Although JavaScript only ranks fifth in languages developers prefer behind Python, C, C++, and Java, this might be offset by the bad experience coming from older people who had to deal with the immature version of JavaScript. When it comes to developer experience, an important metric is that out of all frameworks of all languages, the top four are JavaScript frameworks: Node.js, React, ExpressJs, and AngularJs. Working with these frameworks makes developers happier than anything else.

The 2018 survey of StackOverflow paints the same picture:

- JavaScript is the most popular language with a share of 69.8%. On StackOverflow, JavaScript is more popular than Python.

- Three frameworks lead the list of most popular frameworks: Node.js, Angular, React.

- Salaries of JavaScript developers are marked lower in this survey than the salary paid in many other fields. In my opinion, this statistic is misleading, because in the case of a language requiring a lot of expertise, the salaries of experts are overshadowed by the salaries of entry level developers. In the average first JavaScript interview, based on my experience, it is not uncommon to filter out 70% of the applicants. In an average C++ interview on the other hand, people who reach the first interview know a lot better what they are doing. I encourage you to do your own research on payscale.com or glassdoor.com to find specific JavaScript developer salaries of companies that require your skills.

Although the audience matters, in today's world, you cannot really go wrong with JavaScript. You can also expect that JavaScript stays in an uptrend.

In the next lesson, we'll examine why the rapidly growing JavaScript language is very easy to learn.