

Restoration of Hope

The first three months after my graduation from the university were all about me preparing myself for how I had to present my job applications to different employers in the tech industry. This was all about following the usual path that graduates take on after graduating. I realized I wouldn't waste time doing this when I could work for my father as a data clerk/ IT consultant in his construction company. Reality set in when I questioned my competence on whether I would be able to realize my maximum potential in this role. I quit the job and embarked on a self-study program in different online courses. This was intended to further my programming skills. This brought in more frustration as I started getting stuck with no progression. This was due to a lack of proper guidance and morale. This made me opt for a better strategy in order to progress.

I recalled that I could reach out to an institution that would enhance my skills. Refactory my first thought since we had a workshop with them at Mbarara University about a year ago. I didn't consider joining their program since I thought they were just on any other marketing and sales event. I inquired from their different alumni that had gone through their programs. All they told me was that it was an opportunity of a lifetime to engage with them. This was due to the fact that they managed to reach the top within the tech industry within a short time.

I applied and enrolled for a vacancy in Cohort-10 at Refactory. To my surprise, we all started off on the same page with people that didn't even have any software development background. We began with some modules that at first seemed casual to me. One of them was Leadership skills. I wondered how I was being trained leadership in a tech program. I subconsciously realized its importance when we started group assignments and presentations. We progressed on with how developers were to manage and control versions for their projects and indeed that's when I saw what I was missing. I would really say, this sparked my interest when I started interacting with git and GitHub. This helped so much in a way that I was able to work on projects remotely even without moving with my machine. This allowed me to back up all my projects that I hadn't since campus. We got introduced to Javascript, a programming language I had never thought would be of interest

to me. This was due to my background in Java, C and Python. It opened my eyes to web development and understood how the front-end communicates with the backend. All I thought of as a computer scientist was that everything was all about developing systems. Not taking note of how to integrate the different components to work together and indeed this was an insight. This finally allowed me to put the different knowledge together to develop my first project in Javascript with the proper guidance of the wonderful facilitators at Refactory. Throughout the catalyst program, I experienced a different style of learning that would really exploit all the abilities of a student. I would describe the interaction between the facilitators and leaders(students) as a parent to child relationship. This gave me the interest to join their Bootcamp program due to the prospects I had in my programming career.

The Bootcamp experience I would describe it as the icing on the cake. This was due to the fact that it opened my eyes to new software design concepts. I didn't know of them throughout my entire stay at the university and these included the SOLID principles, design patterns and (CICD) Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery. These concepts are now a guiding factor in my software development career due to their importance. They allow you to tackle bugs with confidence. With hope of the best solution just a step away I know I am safe to go on. This has also helped me to increase my speed in development, delivery and deployment of my projects. Indeed the concepts give you an approach to breaking down challenges seamlessly hence quickening solutions.

I look forward to joining the tech world with the best skill set and approach to challenges. The sky will be the limit with the right environment around me and most importantly I will be very grateful to Refactory.

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