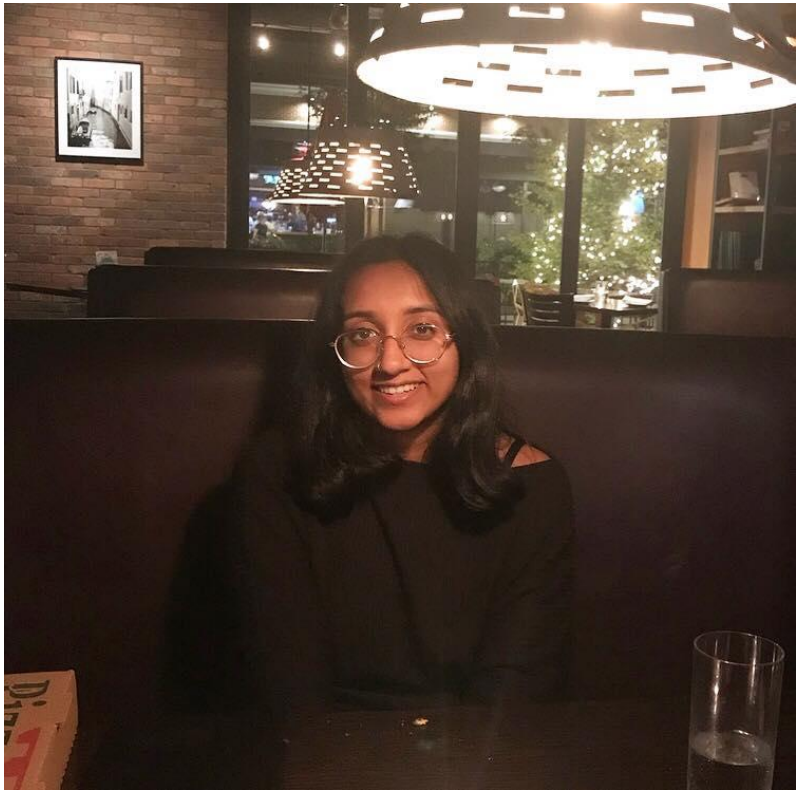
Comp 20 and Beyond

Suruchi Devanahalli

A little About Me

- Graduated from Tufts in 2018



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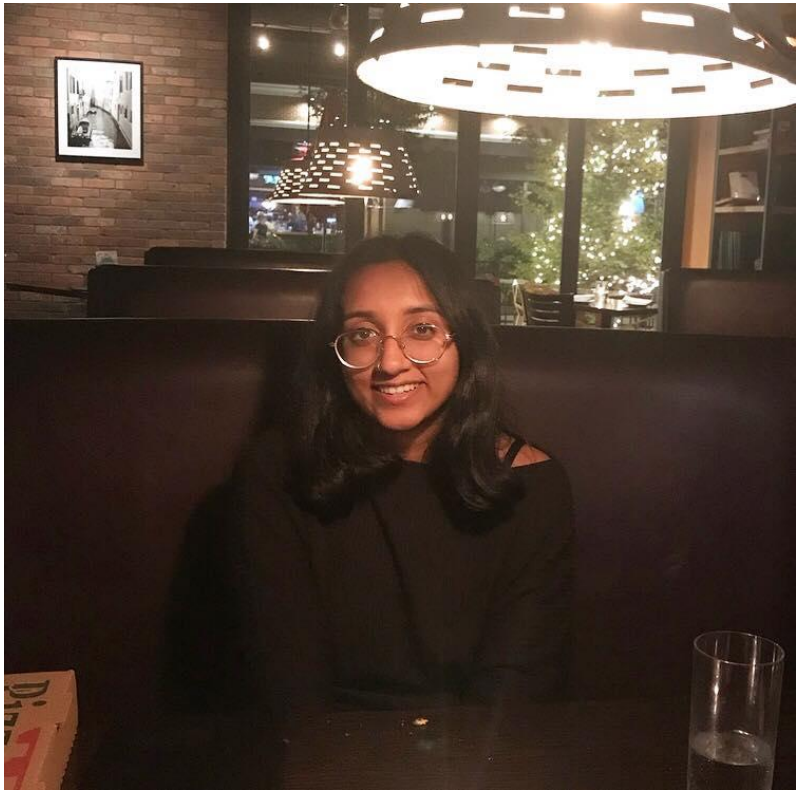

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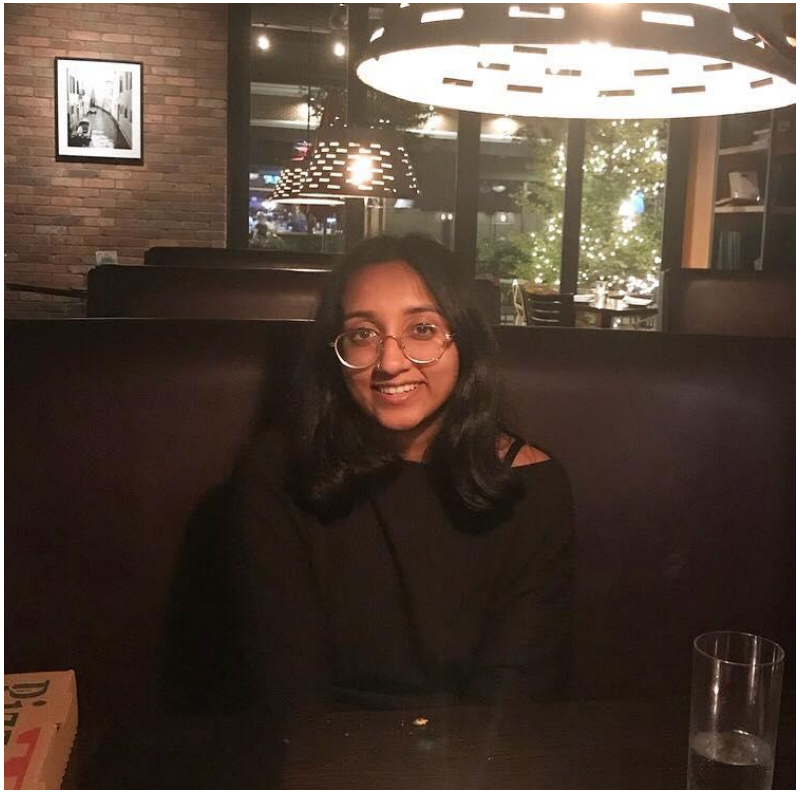

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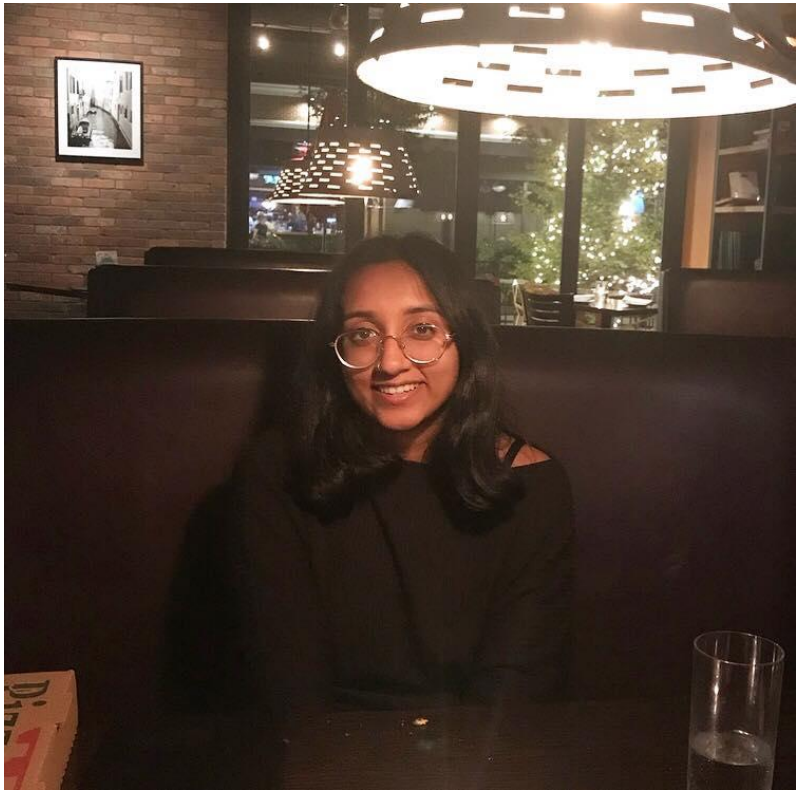
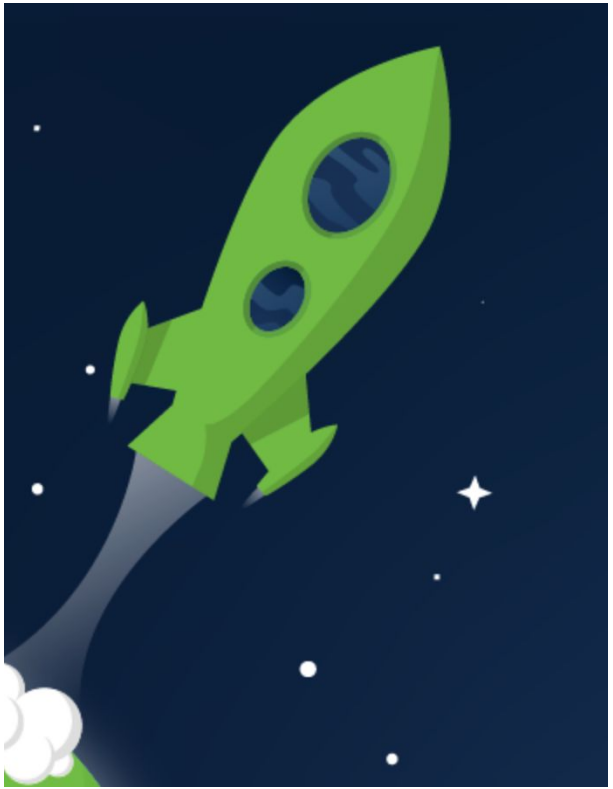


cogo
labs

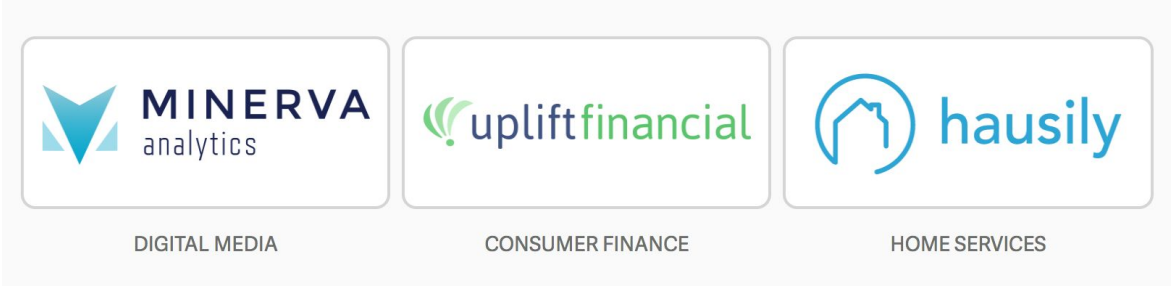
Startup Incubator

Mission: To launch and accelerate internet companies with our data, tech and analytics.



Data Driven

Currently in the Incubator



Launched

IPO'd or Sold

Core Cogo Teams

Engineering

Analytics

Web Team

- We Build internal tools

Web Team

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- We have both UI/UX designers and Engineers on our team

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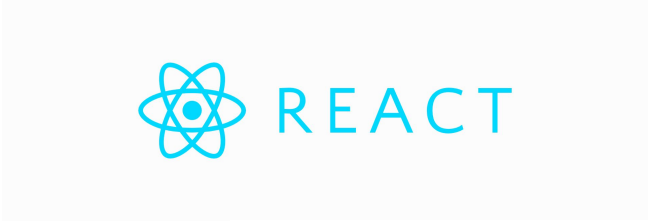
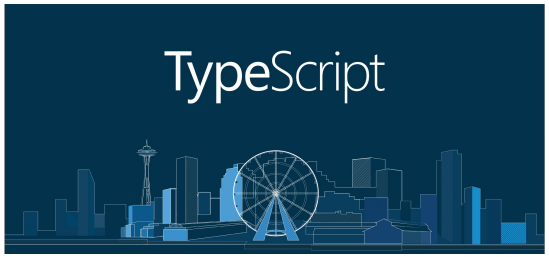
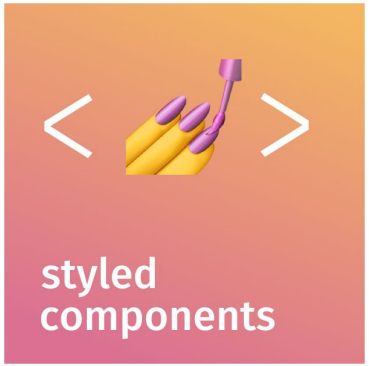
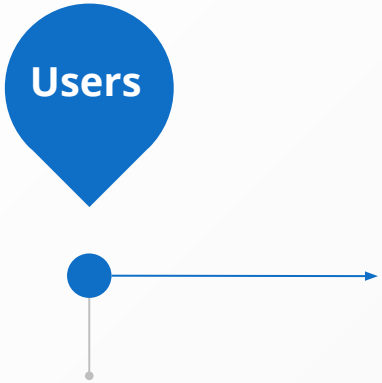






Internal Tool Building Process

Cogo Labs Web Team



User Interviews

Learn about the tool from the user's perspective

Internal Tool Building Process

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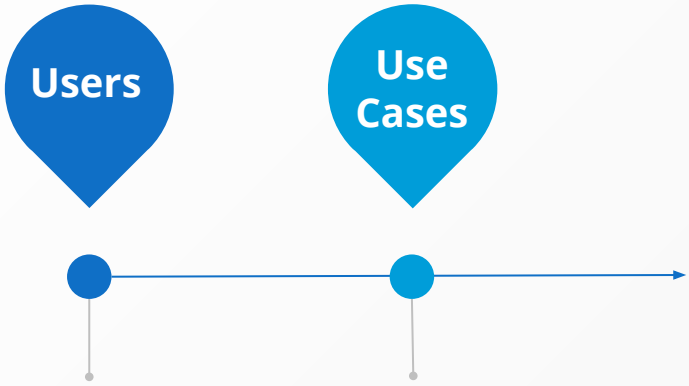

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Decide on features of the tool and what features belong in MVP

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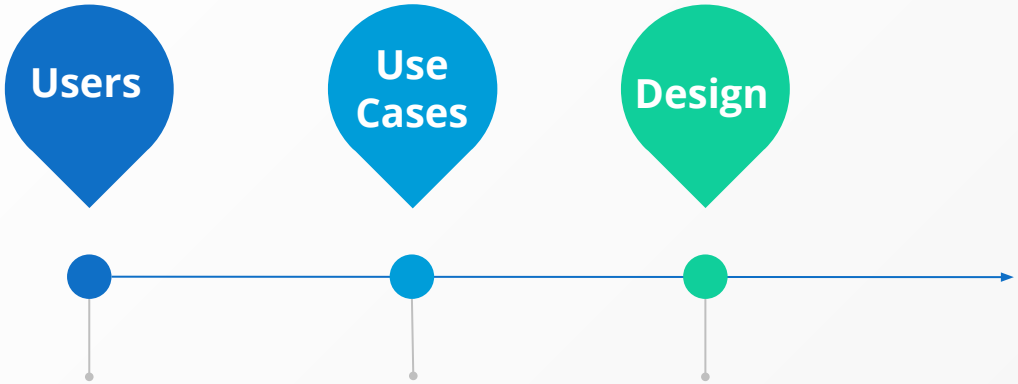

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Wireframes: Low Res

Preliminary low resolution wireframes

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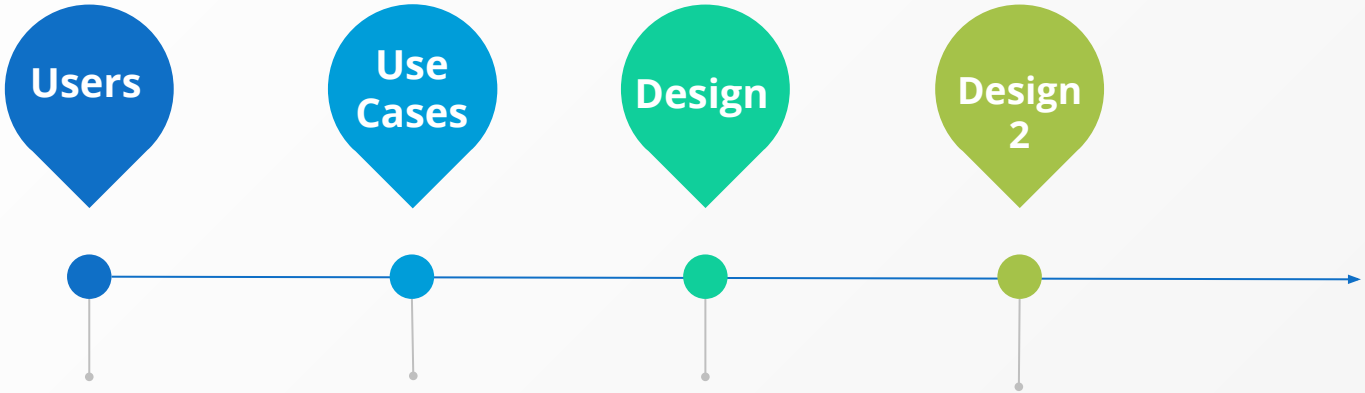

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Concrete high resolution wireframes

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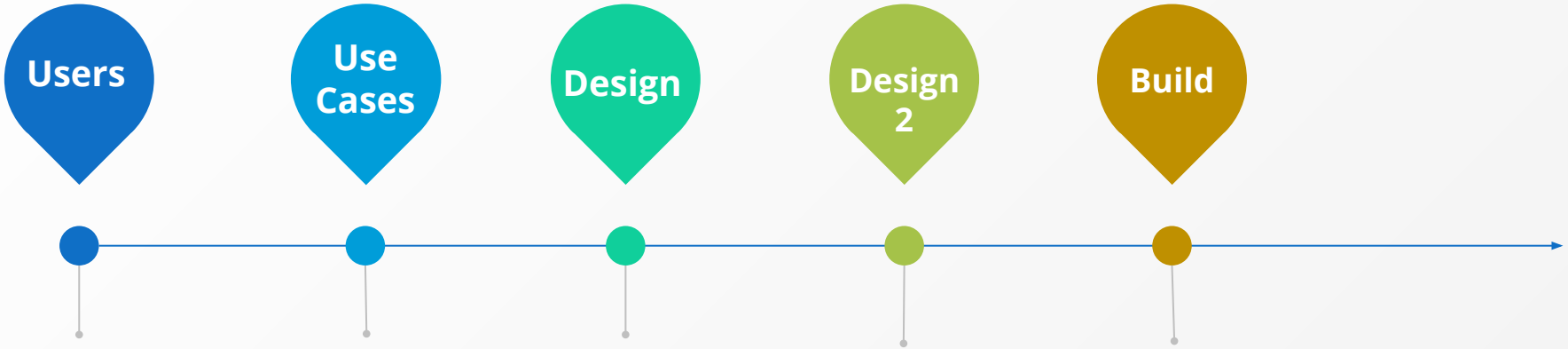

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Build Essential Features

Engineers start to build the features

Comp 20 and Industry

- Don’t reinvent the wheel (as long as the wheel is documented and has a million weekly downloads)

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Comp 20 and Industry

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- Working with Git and Github - transparency
- JS and jumping into new languages
- The internet is your textbook

Tufts CS Journey

No prior CS experience before College

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Summer 2016

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Tufts Human Robot Interaction lab

Had taken: comp 11, comp 15, comp 40

Summer 2016

Tufts Huma

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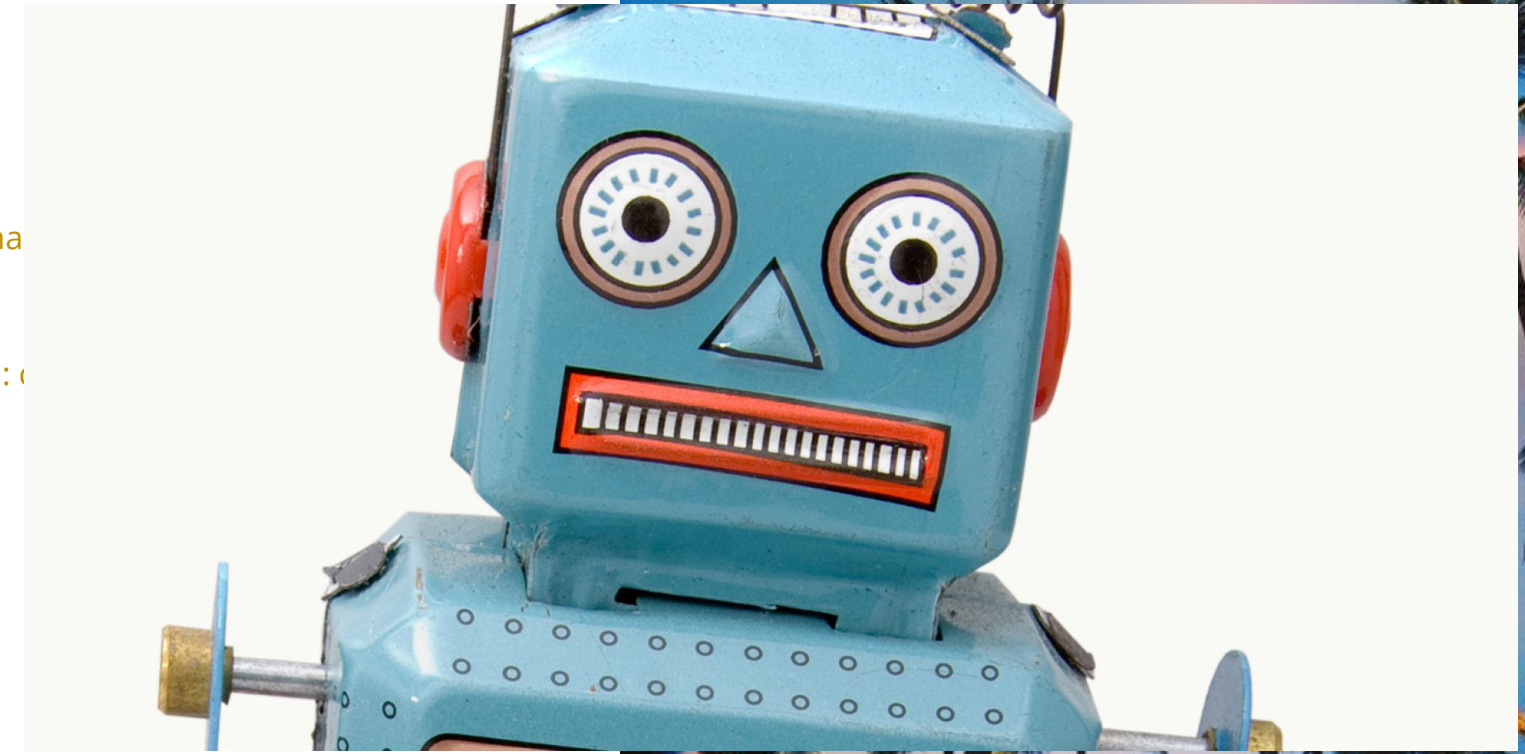
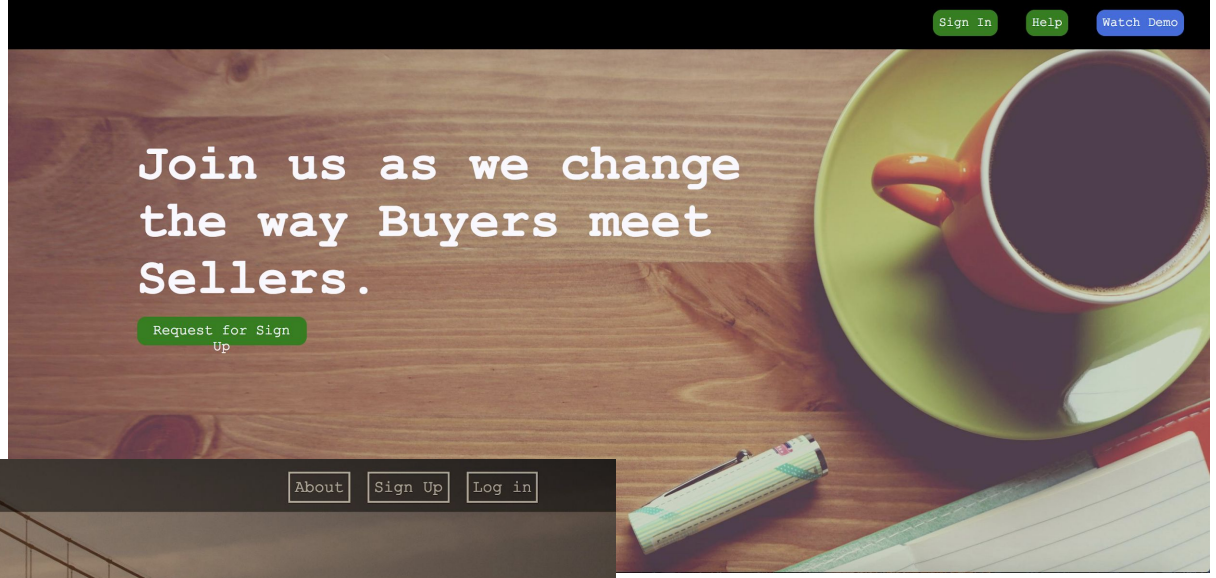


Industry Square 2016-2017

Student Start up

First html+css site



Fall 2016

Applied to Cogo Labs Summer Internship

I was taking:

- comp 20
- comp 160

Interned with:

- databases,
- comp 120 (web engineering)

Fall 2017

Accepted full time offer at Cogo Labs

Finished school with:

- comp 105
- security
- entrepreneurship in CS

In Hindsight

- I was leading myself down a path to web development
- I thought I had to define myself as a frontend or backend engineer, when in reality I didn’t need to

Did Tufts CS prepare me for industry?

Yes

- Collaboration

Yes

- Collaboration
- Reading through detailed specs for projects

Yes

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- Learn universal CS concepts that translate to any language

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- PolyHack and Jumbocode

No

- Testing

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- Technical debt - how to take an outdated project and refactor it

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- Reviewing other people’s code and giving feedback

No

- Testing
- Technical debt - how to take an outdated project and refactor it
- Documentation
- Reviewing other people’s code and giving feedback
- Detailed specs - in industry it’s not always clear what the path ahead is - you have to create the spec

What to add to your toolbox in preparation for industry

- Learn how to use git and github

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- Use web frameworks - get some practice with react, angular
- Documentation and transparency
- Code reviews

Tips for success

Do you have to do side projects?

Interviewer

- Yes
- Work Experience Equivalent
- Interest
- Fit

Former Student

- Yes
- Class projects
- Hackathon projects
- Work with other people
- Jumbocode

Interviews

- Interviewers are nervous too
- Ask us questions
- Thank you email
- Follow up

Career fairs

- Job
- It’s okay if you’re not sure
- Don’t assume that the company doesn’t have a role for you - just ask
- It’s okay if you don’t know what the company does
- Ask for the email address of the person you’re talking to you

Reach out to people on Linkedin

- Target big and small companies
- Recruiters
- CEOs
- If you’re polite and professional - you have nothing to lose, and everything to gain

Be picky with offers, not with applications

Apply to every place that looks like it might be close to what you want to do. Be picky after you get the offers.

Some things to look out for in a company

- Mentorship

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- Challenge

Some things to look out for in a company

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- Culture

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- Mentorship
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- Size - 200 person wall

Some things to look out for in a company

- Mentorship
- Challenge
- Culture
- Size - 200 person wall
- Impact

Why Cogo?

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