# **Tech Networking Cheat Sheet**

## **LinkedIn Optimization for Tech**

**Headline Formula:** Current Role/Goal + Key Skills + Value Proposition *Example: "Aspiring Full-Stack Developer | JavaScript, React, Python | Building User-Focused Web Applications"*

**About Section Structure:** • Hook: What drives your interest in tech • Skills: Your technical toolkit • Projects: Brief mention of 1-2 standout projects • Goal: What you're looking for • Call to action: Invite connection

**Profile Must-Haves:** ✓ Professional headshot ✓ Custom LinkedIn URL ✓ Skills section with endorsements ✓ Featured section showcasing projects ✓ Regular posts about your learning journey

## **Elevator Pitch Template (30 seconds)**

"Hi, I'm [Name]. I'm a [background] transitioning into tech, specializing in [main technology]. I recently built [impressive project] which [key achievement]. I'm looking for opportunities in [specific role/company type] where I can contribute [value you bring]."

**Example:** "Hi, I'm Sarah. I'm a former teacher transitioning into web development, specializing in React and Node.js. I recently built a learning management system that helps students track their progress, which increased engagement by 40% in my beta test. I'm looking for junior developer opportunities where I can bring my communication skills and user-focused mindset to building great products."

## **Where to Network in Tech**

**Online Communities:**

* GitHub (contribute to open source)
* Stack Overflow (ask/answer questions)
* Twitter/X (follow tech leaders, share learning)
* Reddit (r/webdev, r/programming)
* Discord servers for specific technologies

**Local Events:**

* Meetup.com tech groups
* Bootcamp alumni networks
* Tech conferences (many have diversity scholarships)
* Hackathons and coding challenges
* Co-working spaces

## **Conversation Starters**

**At Events:**

* "What brings you to this event?"
* "What technologies are you working with lately?"
* "Any interesting projects you're excited about?"
* "How did you get started in tech?"

**Online/LinkedIn:**

* Comment thoughtfully on posts
* Share your learning progress
* Ask for advice on specific challenges
* Offer to help with something you know

## **Cold Outreach Templates**

**LinkedIn Connection Request:** "Hi [Name], I saw your post about [specific topic] and found your perspective on [detail] really insightful. I'm currently transitioning into tech and would love to connect and learn from your experience."

**Informational Interview Request:** "Hi [Name], I'm [brief intro] and really admire the work you're doing at [Company]. Would you be open to a brief 15-minute coffee chat about your experience in [specific area]? I'd love to learn about your career path and get any advice you might have for someone starting out."

## **Building Your Online Presence**

**GitHub Activity:** • Commit regularly (even small changes) • Write clear commit messages • Create detailed README files • Pin your best repositories • Contribute to open source projects

**Content Ideas to Share:**

* "Today I learned..." posts
* Project updates and screenshots
* Helpful resources you discovered
* Conference/meetup takeaways
* Coding challenges you solved

## **Giving Value First**

**Ways to Help Others:**

* Share job postings you find
* Answer questions in online communities
* Write tutorials about problems you solved
* Volunteer at coding workshops
* Mentor others starting their journey

## **Follow-Up Best Practices**

**After Meeting Someone:**

* Connect within 24-48 hours
* Reference specific conversation points
* Share something relevant (article, resource)
* Suggest a concrete next step

**Sample Follow-up:** "Great meeting you at [event]! I really enjoyed our conversation about React performance optimization. Here's that article I mentioned about lazy loading. Would love to grab coffee sometime and hear more about your experience at [Company]."

## **Red Flags to Avoid**

❌ Only reaching out when you need something ❌ Generic, copy-paste messages ❌ Not doing research before informational interviews ❌ Forgetting to follow up after connections ❌ Being pushy about job opportunities ❌ Not offering value in return

## **Networking Goals by Month**

**Month 1-2:** Set up profiles, join communities **Month 3-4:** Start engaging regularly online **Month 5-6:** Attend local events, schedule informational interviews **Ongoing:** Maintain relationships, share opportunities, give back