**Mentor Call 31 Jan 2025**

Styli Tsinaroglou– (still-e) Small group mentoring lead

* Team Xbox Sr. Product Manager
  + Good contact for how to get into gaming
* Worked in Azure team before
* Army—intel officer (S2, 35D), 0-3, enlisted as 11B in NG before that
* Microsoft for 6 years
* [sttsinar@microsoft.com](mailto:sttsinar@microsoft.com)
* linkedin.com/in/styli

Raja Narrayan—

Patrick Dykema—Program manager at MSFT, MSSA grad

* Infantry officer, 9 years Army
* [patrick.dykema@microsoft.com](mailto:patrick.dykema@microsoft.com)

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General notes:

* ACE—Advanced Cloud Engineering “Glorified tech support”
* Find common ground in interviews
  + Be a person, less transactional, they might be your teammate one day
* Coding is a tool used to achieve goals, technology is the passion

What inspires me about IT?:

* Universally equitable(?) useful
* Always interested in computers and technology
  + When Doom and Doom 2 came out on Windows95
  + MUDs—text based RPGS
    - “what are you doing, hacking into the network?”
      * Why not? What might that look like?
* Bringing people together to provide platforms for people to use/play
* Working in ambiguity
* Maybe creating a program to help drive or guide stock trading

Goals for these sessions:

* What is the scope of the field? I’m seeing it’s very broad
  + More define what I’m specifically interested in
    - What does it actually look like
* Minimum competencies to get an entry level job
* Good hiring strategy for low-level technical skill
* Breaking into the field
  + Bootcamps, good or bad?
  + What can you latch onto that is your unique brand or differentiator
  + Who you know is very important
  + “Leg in the door” is most important
    - Broaden your scope—be open to the idea of other positions related to what you want to do

Tasks:

* Look at job postings and bring them to the mentors to dissect it
  + Careers.microsoft.com ([David.t.hancock@outlook.com](mailto:David.t.hancock@outlook.com))
  + Other site, google, amazon

**Mentor Call 14 Feb 2025**

Transitioning from Military to Corporate America

* Patrick used LinkedIn to send resumes out to mentors/other people to review
  + Useful for taking military jargon out
* “De-mystify” your resume and what the military terms/experiences mean
  + Learn from others, practice it
* Know your audience
* “spitting out keywords”
* “Directs”—A person to reports to you, a subordinate—“One of my directs”
* Ask for a glossary when you get to a new team
* What skills do you bring to the IT industry from your time in service?
  + Working in ambiguity, perseverance, ambition
* Point out how your experience can apply to job description requirements
* Job descriptions/titles to focus on:
  + Find something that interests you and ask them what it means
  + Software Engineer/Developer/Devs/Programmer (older)
    - Builds software applications, websites, mobile apps. Writes code to make things work, like how a game runs or how an app processes payments
    - Any development platform—Python, Java (I guess), C#, C++
  + Backend Developer
    - Behind-the-scenes logic, databases, and servers that power an app or website
    - C0language, Command Line (PowerShell), etc…
  + Game Developer
    - Creates video games, working on gameplay mechanics, graphics, and interactive experiences
  + Systems Engineer
  + Cloud Engineer
    - Works with cloud-based systems (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud) to store and process data

**Mentor Call 28 Feb 2025**

**Mentor Call 14 Mar 2025—Elevator Pitch/Interviews**

* Elevator pitch—find something to make that person want to know something more about you
  + Have, in your back pocket at all times, your selling point
  + Know your audience
  + What message do you want to convey to them
  + Having questions in your pocket to get you in the door
  + Less about selling yourself and more about making that connection and keeping that door open
* TMAY—What is missing that you really want to get across to your interviewer?
  + Talk about you, “be a human”
    - Hobbies, interests, something to spark a mutual interest
* Do your homework/research
  + Look at their LinkedIn and don’t be afraid to let them know you did if they ask.
    - Mutual interests/connections can spark conversations
  + Research the company
    - What is the company’s mission/values/team structure/available products and services
    - Recent news about the company/product that you may be working on
    - Know your audience/read the room
    - Show you care…it’s half the battle these days
    - Look up your interviewers to learn more about them
    - Establish a relationship with the recruiter to get tips and tricks
    - Reach out to your network to learn from them

**Mentor Call 28 Mar 2025—s**

Did Job Description Review