Crossroads:

A math undergrad's career choices and experiences

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Ashvale Tech.

"Don't trust everything you read on the internet."

–George Washington

About Me

- BS in Mathematics, National Taiwan University

- MS in Mathematics, Northwestern University

- Chinese-English interpreter / translator

- Business Intelligence manager at TutorABC

- Co-founder, Tapgo Inc.

- Co-founder, Ashvale Technology

- Author/Publisher

Graduate School in the U.S.

- What to study, why go? (Be honest!)

- Survey government scholarships first (Read the fine print)

- GRE, GMAT, TOEFL

- Do everything yourself (But seek help & advice)

- You need 3 letters and an essay

- Degree granting programs can be… diverse

Graduate School in the U.S.

- It's really not that hard

- A lot of what you read online is bulls**t

- Know the difference: Networking & Just getting drunk

- Optional Practical Training (OPT) and H1B

Little Big Data

- My time as BI manager at TutorABC

- Business analyst vs. big data engineer

- Telling a story & the realities of data

- Why I left

- Another example from the U.S.

Note on Interviews

- Roughly 3 questions, asked differently

- Are you smart enough

- Do you do what we do

- Will you fit

Note on Interviews

- You're not here to learn

- You don't have any weakness (that matters)

- Always negotiate

Building a Startup

- Founders from engineering background

- Making all the usual mistakes

- Finding a niche as technical consultants and solution providers

Building a Second Startup

- A more diverse group of founders

- Traditional product-based model

- An uncertain future

Takeaways

- Looking for solutions where no problem exist

- Pick 1: domain knowledge, engineering know-how

- Should you try it alone

- If you get a chance to do it somewhere else...

Leaving your comfort zone

- How I got into translating and interpreting

- Experiments in publishing and books

- It's hard, can be a total waste… but so are most things in life

Organize (v.)

- 兒時記憶：聯絡簿

- Calendar: Sunrise (Microsoft)

- Email: Gmail (Google)

- Source Control: Github or Dropbox etc…

- Project management: Trello, Onenote, Evernote, Github

- Communication: Slack

Right Now (Today)

- Learn (or train yourself) to feel comfortable with networking

- Study HARD & solve problems

- Fluency in English, Japanese, French… (pick 1)

- Today isn't your last day alive…

- …it's the last day before final exams

Questions & Comments

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- You can write in Chinese or English