

ESCAPE THE P-GATE

Life expansion.. always heard of that word but never thought about it too much. It was something unbelievable to keep trying cutting through all the way till the endless ending. It was very red.. all the blood and the innocent people standing in lines to get their meat ready for expansion. I heard too much that word and still hearing it. I kept asking myself the same question: What does meat have to do with life expansion.

I worked hard as a butcher. People still look at me and ask me different things about life and future: Since when did you graduate? And what did you learn? The fact that I was not a graduate made me feel anxious about myself thinking about the good times I would have spent if I were in a university and with my friends surrounding me and asking questions to ourselves. This might be prettier than blood. I would have also mentioned in my CV that I hate the color red and that I love the color none (black) which have the most tremendous impact despite all colors. It is by the way the “color” of the universe, the utmost place where maybe anyone wish to achieve.

On a day of February, I came back home late. I started doing the things I do in usual. I sat on dinner with my family, I had a quick nap and then watched some science discovery episodes about space. My family has always been a support for me, they’ve always motivated to make extra steps and move on. This has triggered me to start surfing the internet and explore more about this “dark-lighted” universe. I hovered over several sites and deepen into social media websites maybe I can find some nice people sharing my interest. All of the sudden, I stopped at some kind of advertisement. It was actually a Call for Application at some organization named “Codi”. This has really got my attention since I’ve really heard of it in an info session lately and wanted to hover over this new knowledge and get best practices.

I clicked on the link that directed me to the online application. Wow, lots and lots of questions. There was even a question about a superhero. I wish really I was one. I would’ve been able to do much but I know also that superheros are real; they’re just not physically apparent like the ones we watch on movies and cartoons. God has made us super powers in our moral body and we have to know how to invest it.

The endless process of application started and I have managed to keep track of it and have made it to some advanced stages. I have wondered if I can still play the superhero and take the steps further. At this point, every single step has become stressful and I have made myself in doubt if I can keep walking the mile. **The choice was mine.. either I stop here because for me it isn’t worth it; or I continue the fight till the end stage.** So I decided to follow the track, it will be hard but I made myself clear that I will get there.

Finally, I made it. I passed the final interview stage which was with Co-founder named “Hortence”; and have made to the first ever cohort. I was looking for the first days and how will they look like. I’m sure the other people who have made it till here

have made their best. I am passionate about the trainees and all the staff that works at Codi. Maybe someday I will be part of them.

First days at “Codi”: the new days. It was quite a new experience. All look strange to me. I don’t know anyone. All the people steering and trying to know each other but nobody really love to talk before anyone else does. I decided to be the first one to stand up and introduce myself to all the cohort. It was really cool and everybody loved it and decided to do the same thing. The rest of the day, we went over all the rules we should abide and got introduced to all the program.

The next few days were really challenging, we went over some new topics and discovered new ideas. As a consequence, things has seem to become more hard and it was hard for me to keep up at the same pace as I was in the first days. I needed a makeup. So I decided to talk with the lead mentor at Codi named “Samar” and she has managed to meet me on a video chat where we had lots of talk about how I can improve myself in different ways. She decided that the best way would be to give me extra practice exercises to work on alongside my tasks. I began to feel real pressure: “how am I gonna pass this?”.

Then, I’ve noticed that there are some people doing exercises so easy that they were even attend classes or concentrate at a given lectures. You could also watch them playing and talking around with each others with “non-Codi” -related stuff. I’ve wondered the way these guys do to make this excellent progress through the exercises without even putting any effort. I’ve went into asking some of them in an indirect way so that I don’t stimulate their attention in any way. Day after day, I’ve made it into this golden key. There was someone deep in the Codi staff, who has access to all type of exercises and solutions, giving all the solutions to specific students with a dependent amount of money in return. He also has developed an Algorithm being able to solve all the exercises very easily simply by executing it with a small code. This was, well, cheaper than the first way.

I’ve wondered if I can also made the way towards getting all the solutions very easily. But then I was afraid of myself being caught by the legal mentors. This was a tough decision.

I decided to take the short path. I knew this was dangerous, but thinking about it, it was worth it. There was some really hard exercises and I really wanted to finish the first stage of Codi: The prairie with as much keys as needed to pass it. I even made a name for this process: Escaping the P-Gate. It was really like a gate and I needed to escape it. I’ve managed to meet the head master behind the illegal process. He was known by “Hackour”. I’ve met him outside Codi and I’ve managed to give him all the money I raised from my previous work and accepted to give me the algorithm that will solve all the exercises.

I managed to go over everything in just very small time and mark them as “done” in my Trello board. It was really like I am playing. But on one day, and while I was working from my home as usual, I heard noise coming down the the building. It was a police alarm. I’ve wondered who they were looking for. Then the noise became closer. I started feeling worried. They hit my door, and when I opened they quickly captured me without even giving me time to talk or do anything. I was put imprisoned and all

things just happened quickly without understanding the reason for all of this. After some time, I managed to meet the head cop. He told me that I am suspicious to be part of a bank robbery via a cyber-attack, and that our head of the robbing team is a guy known as “Hackour”. He told me also that they were looking for the tools used and I am supposed to have it as I have taken it from “Hackour”. You can guess it! It was the USB drive that contained the solver algorithm. My head was blocked. What does this thing has to do with all this. I didn’t understand anything. I remained silent until the head cop received a phone call. It was from another police department and they informed him with updated news concerning the robbery. When he finished, he told the cops to let me free. It turned out I’m right. The drive device had nothing to do with all the robbery process. I returned back home and continued my work normally.

Finally, I reached the end of the gate: The final week. The mentors were standing in front of the whole class and had an announcement. I wondered of what could that be. At the time, this was my big shock: we had to pass one final test and that is, to beat the key master. This was the only thing I didn’t want to happen. But now, I am imposed with facing the last challenge in the gate which could be the last challenge at Codi. The challenge was a one-on-one question and answer where I should answer all the tricky questions that the key master had prepare; and if I missed any, I would fall in the danger zone which would make me out for good.

Final day of the prairie gate. Here I am waiting for my turn for the last fight. It was really a fight. I saw the people who took the same road how damaged they were not answering any question despite their excellent record of keys (as it should be). The Key Master has taken all their keys. Not only that, but he has made them enter a confession room with the director because he had doubt about them.

My turn now. The questions were really different. I have managed to answer some of them because I’ve really worked hard at the beginning. I started then to sweat and the key master invested this chance and hardened the questions. Unbelievable, I couldn’t answer none of them despite the fact that I could have talked a little bit and retain some keys. At the end, Key Master said his word: Keys unleashed; And I was out.

Scenario 2:

I decided not to go into the short path despite some of my team members insisting at me going through it; but I really had that feeling of no good if I would pass that road. I went into the hard one, the long path that I knew I will be suffering there. the lead mentor “Samar” gave me some extra practice exercises to work on alongside my projects. During parts of the prairie, we were asked to leave if we weren’t ready to the next harder challenges. I didn’t manage to keep up because of the very stressful periods, so I left.

Scenario 3:

Same as 2.. but accept the challenge

Finally, we arrived at the final week where we had to take the final fight with the “Key Master” which had some tricky questions we had to answer in order to retain our keys and pass the “P-Gate”. I was ready for it. At least, I felt I was.

The final day came and it was my turn. He asked lots and lots of questions concerning all the topics that we've covered: PHP, JS, React. He wanted to make me answer wrong at any point, but I have made it and passed it till the end.

Scenario 3:

Same as Scenario 2 but with different ending..

... all the topics that we've covered: PHP, JS, React. Every question was hard to answer and at some point, I felt my head blocked and couldn't answer any additional questions, so I lost and decided to quit.

Scenario 4:

Same as first Scenario but with different ending..

When I met with the illegal key master, he told me that he had an idea that would make me pass the test easily. He had some secret algorithm that he could use to spam into the Key master's computer and steal all the questions that no one knew. He has managed to do this before where he had access to The Key master's computer at least once and managed to get the information he wanted for this operation. Then he will email me those information right before the challenge start to avoid any sense of doubt. He told me that this was very dangerous and that he wanted a good return on this. I told him that I don't have any money but would work and give him the amount back in the future. All things went straight and I have managed to escape the P-Gate.