title: **I could really use some help**
num_comments: 11
num_up_votes: 29
upvote_ratio: 0.93

Post Text

Hi, I'm a 26yo female programmer with Dyspraxia, ADHD, and Ehlers Danlos Syndrome. I graduated from a bootcamp last October (2019), but unfortunately because of my disabilities they were not accommodating to me (and didn't believe me) and basically gave up on me without helping me to get a job because I needed continued guidance. Now I am learning Unity, Blender, and concept/game art because my self esteem went really low and I'm looking for something that I can actually be marketable at. I am completely full stack in C#, .Net/.Net Core, SQL, Javascript, OOP, Node.Js, Bootstrap, React etc and I can show basic comprehension in all of these. Unfortunately I don't know *what* to do and when I reach out to the bootcamp they no longer respond to me. I'm not asking for a pity party, but I'm at a point in which I know I need someone on my side with a little tough love that can help guide me to become hirable or at least know how to market myself as a freelancer. I have so much knowledge but it's really hard for me to manifest those ideas into reality. If anyone has it in their heart to get to know me and my abilities and offer criticism and guidance it would be so greatly appreciated, and I would do my best to give back what I can. My husband is also nuerodivergent and just lost another job today after 2 weeks and I really want to feel like I can help take off some of that pressure from him.

Comments

Commenter_2
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 23
> I am completely full stack in C#, .Net/.Net Core, SQL, Javascript, OOP, Node.Js, Bootstrap, React etc

That's a lot of languages / frameworks for someone who never worked professionally in the industry. Do you know them well enough? Do you have portfolios to present?

If you want to post or send me your portfolio I can offer you a code review (Especially for React and Node, which might be your best chance at getting a job in the current market if you're ok doing webdev).

Unknown_User
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 6
similar to other comment, are you on linked in with all these skills outlined? there is a large recruitment base on there, you have listed a lot of keywords here they would be searching on. each would have different interview type processes, but they would come to you based on your profile. Did you grad or do a group project with anyone in the Bootcamp for endorsements of each other skills on the platform? Build some social proofing for more reach out from perspective positions.

For freelance is there a reason behind pursuing this type of work or any work acceptable?

Depending on where you are located the most important thing in freelance is not forgetting to set aside money to pay your taxes (will be your responsibility instead of employer cheque deduction) Always remember you set your prices and as a business have to factor in not just your hours and value of your work, but also all your overhead costs whatever they may be like taxes, internet bills, software license, rent etc

since you already partake in self-education there are probably also resources from other freelancers to consume for free on the internet. and finding work then there are sites like fiver/upwork or personal networks can start with contract work from linkedin recruitment to build that network in the places you

work as most work i get offered there is often 3month - 1-year contracts.

OP
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
I have had my LinkedIn up for awhile and to be honest, I haven't been offered anything. I would be disingenuous to say that the reason I haven't gotten a job or networked more isn't my fault. It's been really hard with my self esteem to feel like with my disabilities and health issues that someone would even want to hire me. I try not to be too hard on myself because I'm always in pain but I still feel like a failure. I don't have a lot to show for at all because it's been hard for me to finish things without guidance. I have worked really hard on my portfolio in React and yet I can't figure out why it won't deploy on GitHub and honestly having my LinkedIn up at the moment seems like it hurts more than helps. I am really focusing on Game Development through Unity Learn and I feel once I complete whole projects and build a portfolio in games, concept art and animation that it will look a lot better. I'd be willing to share my GitHub with whoever asks so they can get an idea of what I'm talking about.

Commenter_4
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2
I'm connected to a lot of recruiters on LinkedIn, western Europe though, PM me your profile, maybe it helps to connect and otherwise i can maybe provide some feedback.

BTW i think you have better chances in web development rather than game development

OP
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
To add, I guess what I'm looking for is if I'm on the right path for success and what kind of projects either practical or game development I can do to really show I know what I'm doing. I have a hard time coming up with ideas and I would like to know what people see as marketable. For example, I've already done 4 basic gameplay projects through Unity Learn (going for Junior Developer certification), do those count as something I could show or do I keep working until I get to a certain level? Is it a bad idea to scrap practical projects for game development and what kind of balance should I spread my efforts? I'm not medicated for my adhd and Dyspraxia so I'm sorry if this seems stupid or off base.

Unknown_User
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 5
Can't speak to game dev industry. But can speak a little to invisible illness in a dev industry, and portfolios in general, what I look for when evaluating for hiring.

For illness, we and the way we feel about ourselves from the cultural, subliminal messages we are fed constantly are usually our biggest obstacle. I'd say most people with invisible illness are pushing themselves twice as hard as everyone else, not because other people ask this of them; but because the messages we get, internalize and how we rationalize that with the "secret truth" of how we really function, we convince ourselves that's how to keep up. Imposter syndrome. Not the only group that makes these efforts either.

Everyone contains multitudes and are struggling in some way to be present. Everyone's brain is capable of different things, and also messing up in so many ways. No "normal" person gets all this stuff perfect (or exists for that matter, normal is a fantasy we invent to compare ourselves to). Everyone has areas with room for improvement, growth and depth of knowledge happens with time.

Nothing about your condition should prevent you or anyone from success in this industry. In fact, in a lot of ways neuro diversity fuels these industries, why? Because teamwork!

So never take any code review personal! Remember it's an opportunity to grow, learn a new perspective, or riff with each other for a better output; not a reflection of your worth.

As a grad, put everything in your portfolio. All things are experience. Even if you worked drive thru while going to school or something. Managing both can show many qualities. When I read candidates code I look for how are they commenting and naming things, handling files because to me that shows if they know how to work on a team to share code with others so they aren't the only person to know how something works. Don't assume what your portfolio pieces and information says about you, you only have your perspective, you don't know what tidbit would sell you in someone else's mind. Even include hobbies if your stuff is on the lighter side, they could show how you expand on your skill set in your free time, skills that could also be used at work.

If you have access to receive counseling they may be able to help with skills for helping your time management or trying to organize your thoughts and stay on task if you need guiding hand there. Or again plenty of resources free online to burn through looking for a right fit for you, off the top of my head bullet journaling? Was invented by adhd person :)

Unknown_User
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 5
I don't know game development much, so I don't think I can help with anything specific there, but if you want guidance on how to approach projects/tasks more effectively, feel free to PM me. I'm in my early 40's and am a full stack dev with ADHD-PI. A lot of times doing this work for a living isn't just about knowing stuff, it's how you approach solving the problem, which is just another skillset to learn.

I've started viewing my coding as a practice, like medicine or law. It's a skill I've honed and will continue to refine. I don't know everything and never will, but I'm on a journey that's built over years of lived experience. Whatever I know right now is all I'm supposed to know. Anything else that is required I will seek out and learn.

Commenter_5
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 4
You got this <3

OP
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 3
Thank you!

Commenter_6
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 3
You can pm me if you'd like. I'm an ADHD programmer who graduated from a bootcamp last year, and have had to find 2 jobs since then (thanks covid)

Commenter_7
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2
Hello! I know nothing about your profession but I coach people with ADHD to cope with challenges and reach their goals. If that is the kind of help U need I am willing to do. I live on the other side of the world so will have to sync time.