

Module 8 Career Connection

Welcome back! We hope that you enjoyed your first course project. In this Career Connection, we will discuss GitHub in the workplace and how to tell your career story.

Here's the Career Connection agenda for today:

- GitHub in the Workplace
 - Finding Your Career Fit: Telling Your Story
 - Interview Prep
 - Next Steps
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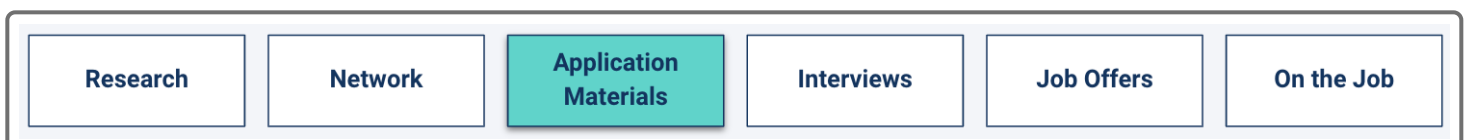
GitHub in the Workplace

In this course, we use GitHub to keep a record of our projects. You may wonder whether you will continue to use GitHub as a professional developer. The answer is definitely yes! All developers use some type of version control system to collaborate, track changes, and back up code.

GitHub is also useful for automating workflows. When you are coding in the workplace, your team will have a standard practice for pushing code to the main branch. For example, most individuals first commit their code to their own GitHub branch. Then, the code goes through a quality assurance process before it is committed to the GitHub main branch.

Of course, GitHub isn't the only version control system on the market. Other options include Bitbucket, GitLab, and AWS CodeCommit. Most companies invest in premium subscriptions of a version control system to ensure that their code is private and secure.

Finding Your Career Fit: Telling Your Story



The most popular interview question is a statement: “Tell me about yourself.” Why? Because employers want to know your story! They want to learn how you define yourself and how you became a skilled and capable individual. So, how will you answer this question? This is where storytelling comes in.

Instead of presenting yourself as a list of skills, you should incorporate storytelling to create a more complete picture of your value as an employee. An effective story will make you more memorable, emphasize your strengths, and help you connect with interviewers.

Here are some of our tips for successful career storytelling.

Choose a Starting Point

Your starting point should be the big realization that launched you on your current career path. This could be an experience from childhood, your first success, a life transition, or a notable inspiration such as a mentor or another professional.

For example:

“I attended my first hackathon in 2019 and fell in love with the innovative energy. It’s what led me to complete a data analytics boot camp and eventually host my own local hackathon.”

Be the Hero

Interviews are your time to shine. Position yourself as the hero in your story. Your goal is to inspire the interviewer and encourage them to hire you for your unique talent and skills.

Prioritize In-Demand Skills

As with using keywords in your resume, make sure to highlight your in-demand skills. Include technical skills *and* soft skills. For example, if you know that the company is seeking creative problem-solvers, highlight your creative problem-solving skills in your story.

Be Consistent Across Application Materials

Your story will make an impression in a recruiter’s mind when the details are consistent across your application materials, including your resume, cover letter, portfolio, LinkedIn, and in the interview itself.

Creating an effective story will take a bit of time, but it’s worth it. A compelling professional story enables you to differentiate yourself from other candidates and present a consistent profile. So, grab a pen, journal, and beverage, and start writing your story!

INTERVIEW PREP ▲

INTERVIEW PREP

Read each question, enter your answer in a notebook file or text editor, and then compare your response to the provided one.

Note: The lessons didn't explicitly cover all the questions. However, the skills and concepts that you learned (plus your research skills) have prepared you to answer them.

1. What is a commit message and why are they important?

Answer: Commit messages are sent with each commit made to a repository. They are important because they allow other team members to see what code was changed and what was accomplished.

2. What is a git conflict?

Answer: A git conflict arises when there are two separate branches that have edits made to the same line in a file, or if a file has been deleted in one branch but edited in another. A user must manually resolve conflicts before the branches can be merged.

3. How often should you commit changes to a branch?

Answer: Generally speaking, you should commit your changes whenever you've completed work that you don't want to lose. Companies may have more specific requirements.

Next Steps

- Create a professional story that you can use to introduce yourself to interviewers and colleagues.

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