



Hack Your Job Search: Chapter 7 Worksheet

Chapter 7, “Growing Your Professional Network”, guides you in building an essential part of your work life. Your professional network will help you long after you’ve found employment. They’ll be there when you need support, feedback or just people to discuss software development with.

You can gather professional contacts from many sources, but for the purposes of this worksheet, you’ll use LinkedIn. Begin by following the tips from the previous worksheet.

1. Start by adding connections.

The hardest part about building a personal network is getting started. Eventually, the number of interesting connections you find will snowball as you are exposed to friends of friends in your community and can add the interesting ones with the click of a button. For now, you need to put some focused effort into it.

1a. Add people you already know.

Start by adding three people you already know. Using LinkedIn’s search field at the upper lefthand corner of the screen, look for your significant other, your parents, your children, your siblings and/or your best friend. Write the names of the people you’ve added below:



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1b. Add colleagues to your network.

Next, look for and add people you respect from your current and previous workplaces or from your bootcamp or course of study. If you're self-taught, add anyone who's mentored you or otherwise helped along the way. Write the names of the people you've added below:

1c. Follow interesting companies.

You can also follow companies on LinkedIn. Find and follow a few of your dream employers and follow them. Write the names of the companies you've added below:

When you search for a company, LinkedIn reveals how many of your connections work there. Once you build your network, getting in touch with contacts working at a dream employer is a great way to learn more about the company, get a referral and possibly hear of openings that are not yet listed publicly.



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2a. Find contacts from networking events.

Finally, look back at the Networking section in Chapter 5, “Traditional and Nontraditional Ways to Find Jobs”, and commit to attending an online networking event or meeting. Write the name, date and time of this event below. Add it to your calendar as well so you don’t forget to attend!

I’m attending:

2b. Add the contacts to your LinkedIn.

After this online networking event, send LinkedIn connection requests to at least two people you met there. Write their names here:
