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Hack Your Job Search: Chapter 8 Worksheet

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In Chapter 8, "Building in Public", you learn how to work on projects that you can use to show off your skills to prospective employers. This worksheet will encourage you to consider a few different ways to build in public, then guide you through the process of creating a GitHub README file that highlights your abilities.

1. Investigate hackathons and coding competitions.

Use the resources listed in the chapter to find hackathons or coding competitions you could participate in. Share your findings below.

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2a. Look for potential open-source projects you'd consider working on.

The chapter lists several ways to find open-source projects that are open to contributions. Try out at least three different ways, and write down some interesting projects here.

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This is a companion worksheet for the book, "Hack Your Job Search: The Authoritative Guide to Landing a Mobile Dev Interview" by the Kodeco Tutorial Team, Jenn Bailey and Tim Condon. © 2023 Kodeco Inc.

2b. Browse through the open issues and see if you can contribute.

Make your first pull request. Write a note to yourself here so you don't forget to post about it in your blog, resume or README file.

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3. Brainstorm an app you could build.

This chapter suggests writing an app and making it available to download so potential employers can see your work. Brainstorm at least three ideas for a simple app that you could build.

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4. Create a professional GitHub README file.

As you build in public, you'll want to make sure you're set up to share your successes and struggles. One way to do this is by creating a GitHub personal profile, which is a special README.md that displays when your account loads.

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5. Consider what you'd like to share in response to GitHub's default prompts:

– 👀 I'm interested in …

What kind of projects do you want to build? Share too any interests you feel could help your job search, such as developing tech solutions for particular problem areas that interest you in your community.

What languages and tech stacks have you worked with already?

– 🌱 I'm currently learning …

What new skills are you developing that you want to share with potential teammates and employers?

– 💞 I'm looking to collaborate on …

What sort of projects would you like to contribute to? Do you have a personal app you'd like some help with? How would you like someone else to contribute to your repository?

– 📫 How to reach me …

Consider linking your Twitter account here. Because GitHub is a widely used public site, be mindful about the contact details you share.

Now, navigate to your GitHub home page and use the Create button there to fill in your initial profile README. When you're ready to jazz this up, search for GitHub profile README examples and get as creative as you like!