



Hack Your Job Search: Chapter 1 Worksheet

Now that you've read Chapter 1, "Evaluating Your Options", it's time to use the knowledge you've gained. Print out this worksheet, settle down with a warm beverage of your choice and start thinking about how you want to structure your job search.

This worksheet will help you set a timeline, evaluate your current skills and find ways to strengthen them, if necessary, so you match the desired skill set for junior dev employers. Putting some real effort into your answers will help you start your job search right.

1a. By what date do you want to be working as a software developer?

1b. What informs your answer above? What have you taken into account to arrive at this date?



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2a. If you aren't working — or work just part-time — how long can your finances sustain you before you absolutely need a job?

Taking into account how much your overall monthly expenses are, how many months' available cash do you have in reserve? Subtract one month from this as a buffer. If you're currently in a job and finances are less of a concern, use the answer from Question 1.

Your working-as-a-software-developer date is whatever comes sooner: the date from Question 1 or the date from Question 2.

Terrific, now you have a firm milestone!

3a. Do you have a dream job at a particular dream company in mind?

If so, write it here:



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3b. What about this job makes it your dream job? What about the company makes it your ideal company to work for?

Take the time to research the company (see Chapter 2, “Types of Jobs Available”), then return to this question to answer in detail. Consider too, once you’ve done this research, looking for other companies with similar traits. Be open to multiple ways to achieve your dreams. List some runner-up companies here:

4. How well do you feel you understand each of the following aspects of the interview process?

Circle a number on the scale following each aspect, where 1 means “I don’t even know what these words mean” and 10 means “No problem at all; I’m ready to tackle this aspect right this very moment!”



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Submitting your resume/CV:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Write at least one question you have about this phase:

Feeling confident about this phase? Choose your own adventure! Continue to Chapter 2, "Types of Jobs Available", or pause and send your resume out to a couple interesting postings right now.

Not sure where to get started with resume writing? You'll learn about this in depth in Chapter 4, "Resume and Portfolio."

Phone interview:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Write at least one question you have about this phase:



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If you're feeling comfortable already with the initial phone interview — most likely because you've already experienced a couple — great!

On the other hand, if you'd like some detailed guidance, or just want to see where you could potentially improve, check out "[Effective Phone Screen Interview Tactics for Mobile Developers](#)".

Culture fit interview:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Write at least one question you have about this phase:

For this phase and those that follow, practicing in mock interviews can be a great way to dial down your anxiety and level up how you appear to potential employers. Learn more in "[Mock Interview Techniques for Tech Job Searchers](#)".



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Whiteboard interview:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Have you ever participated in an interview where you needed to explain something verbally and visually? If you haven't had the chance to try this yet yourself, search YouTube for example whiteboard interviews for your tech stack. What did you notice about the questions asked or the delivery?

How would you do it differently?

Write at least one question you have about this phase:



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Pair programming exercise:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Think back to when you were first learning how to code. How did you learn from your peers? What were some of the group projects or coding exercises?

Currently, is there any coding problem or challenge you're trying to solve? How would you invite a peer to work with you on solving this problem?

Write at least one question you have about this phase:



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Take home project:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

If you already have access to a brief from the potential employer, be sure to review it closely and ask questions for clarification as early as possible. You don't want to wait until the day before it's due to review the brief. If you have a real or example brief right now, is the goal of this project clearly stated? What questions do you have about the brief? Jot down some ideas on how you would implement it:

Write at least one question you have about this phase:

Assessment center:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



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Find out if there's an assessment center near you. If so, what do they offer?

How might this help you during your job search and interview process?

Write at least one question you have about this phase:

Finally, take a look at the questions you've gathered above. Research them online so that you feel confident going into your interview when the time comes.
