



Hack Your Job Search: Chapter 9 Worksheet

In Chapter 9, “Learn & Share”, you learned how to continue to expand your software developer skill set while raising your profile by teaching others while you learn. The essence of this is:

- Choose a new topic to learn.
- Choose where you’ll write, talk or teach about this topic.

Time to get started!

1. Brainstorm new topics to learn.

Off the top of your head, brainstorm as many programming topics as you can think of that you’d like to know more about. Write them here:



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2. Use resources from the chapters to expand your list.

Now, reread the “Selecting a Programming Topic to Learn & Share” section at the start of the chapter. Look over some resources for your tech stack. Add at least two more topics to the list above:

3. Research one topic and outline it.

Next, pick one of the topics and do some research. Read back through “Where to Research Tech Topics” for some good starting points. Take notes however works for you — a Markdown file, your favorite editor, highlights and notes on a tablet or on paper.

Once you’ve put in some research time, come back here and draft a high-level outline for your topic, enough to get a sense of what you want to cover. For example, if you’re learning how to create widgets in iOS, you might write:

- I. Creating Static Widgets
- II. Creating Widgets the User Can Configure
- III. Understanding the Widget Timeline
- IV. Sharing Data Between a Widget and Its App



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As this example shows, it's OK to not have the perfect structure in your first draft. You're learning, both the technology and how to share it. Jot down some top-level outline headings here:

4. Decide how to share what you learned.

Now, think about where you could share this topic. Write below three different places you could share what you learned and any questions you have about each. For example, "iOS Devs of the East Valley — when is the next meetup and how do I get a presentation slot?"

Places to share about the topic (and what's needed to make this happen):

5. Create your content.

Finally, flesh out your topic, choose the format in which you'll share it and get it out there. It's absolutely OK if it's not perfect — you'll learn as you go!
