#1 Mel Cerezo

> I want to hear your story on how you got started in pursuing the Software field? (Did you start as a Bootcamp Grad)

Grandparents gave advice to go into Software, to get his Bachelor’s in IT because they know that the field is good. He also said that he enjoyed using Computers at a young age so he agreed.

> How was the transition from (Bootcamp, Degree, Self taught) to your first job in the Software field?

It was tough to get the first job because he came from college in the Philippines and he didn’t have job experience in the US. He really wanted to get into DevOps so he started learning some DevOps from Udemy courses. He also received his AWS developer certification to help him receive his first job. His first job was Quality Assurance starting as an intern learning testing.

> How long did the process take to land your first job? How many Job applications?

1.5 years, 100s of Resumes sent stated that he sent around 5 Resumes out per day.

> The tech industry constantly changes in terms of technology and stack, what approaches helped you out the most in learning a new technology? (documents)

Looked up what’s in demand in his field using Google, did Udemy online courses, and got his AWS developer certification.

> What advice would you give to yourself when you were starting to job search having the knowledge you have now?

He would’ve networked better, and reached out to developers by joining developer groups. He said that he should’ve been a bit more social when job searching.

> What are some benefits that you really enjoy being in the Software field?

Salary, the Challenge everyday is like solving a puzzle so it keeps his mind active which he enjoys. He also doesn't like repetitive jobs, Remote opportunities.

> Did you already know the technologies you now work with when you first joined the job? If not, how did you go about learning those new skills for the role you are in now?

Some things he knew already, but for anything that was brand new to him he would check Google, Stack Overflow, get a basic course from Udemy on the new topic, or ask his Coworkers when he got stuck.

> When choosing a company between other companies that may want you as well, what are the strongest factors that help you confirm that choice?

Salary, Career Opportunities, Room for Growth for the field he wants (DevOps). He said culture is secondary to him.

> What would you say helped you prepare for interviews the most?

Research the Company: Products and their History, he said that it was important to know the company beforehand. HackerRank for warming up for the coding interviews.