

San Francisco Meetup

A beautiful Saturday morning with a crystal blue sky, fluffy white clouds, and a nice warm 65 degrees. The streets are sparse with the daily commuters sleeping in. A few shopkeepers are cleaning their entrance ways in preparation their openings. I've got my computer in hand on my way to a computer coding meetup. I'm a bit nervous with anticipation, meeting new people is always exciting. The meeting is in lobby of a San Francisco hotel near the Financial District. I arrive on time. The organizers are just finishing setting up, unwinding some electrical cords and positioning the final tables. A couple of participants are already here mingling in the corner. The meetup is for coders to gather, drink coffee, and work on projects in a group environment. Coffee and some pastries are provided by the organizers and the crowd is surprisingly social. I introduce myself to some attendees. First, Ben a video game programmer recently relocated to the city. We talk about some of our favorite games and the platforms we enjoy coding on. Next, I meet Tomo, a software engineer working a pet project to develop a web application. The crowd is pretty diverse: on couple recruiting for another meetup, "Run and Code", a venture capitalist who just sold a company and is out to see what people were working on, a video game startup looking to recruit (Ben and he hit it off), a recent Galvanize Data Bootcamp graduate working the group for job networking, and several other coders working on their own project.

The organizers, after about 40 minutes of coffee and socializing, gathers the group together and we do introductions: name, platform your comfortable working on, project you're working on today, and any brief thing you want to mention. "Hi, I'm Lucas Jennings. I'm comfortable working with Python and Pandas. Today, I'm working on a recommending engine." We take seats at the tables and start working on our coding projects. A few minutes in and one of the organizers asks if anybody is good with Python. I volunteer. One of the attendees was wanting some help with a code question. A bit to my surprise, I easily solve her problem. I find myself enjoying the meetup, making some new connections, and the pleasure of contributing to others. I offer to help the organizers if they need assistance and make a mental point to comeback.