Thinkful: Career planning document

## Section 1: Explore the landscape

According to the Data Scientist Quiz, I tested as a data engineer. However, according to the data science radar, my greatest strength is being the communicator.

I think the results above are relatively accurate. I really enjoy problem solving and thus picking up new languages, learning how to implement them on my projects, and making sense of datasets is a rewarding process for me.

For most of my professional career it has been my job to test products, analyze the data (usually small datasets), and make recommendations to design teams and/or project managers. Because of this, I am very comfortable in the role of the “communicator” and find that it is a critical skill when trying to influence decision makers. Clear communications, reporting techniques, and visualizations go a long way and I am excited to learn more elegant and efficient techniques to apply to my career.

## Section 2: Job postings

### Job 1

* + Company name: Backcountry.com
  + Title: Data Scientist
  + Why did you choose this job?
    1. It would be fun to continue working in the outdoor industry. It would be fun to use my knowledge from the outdoor industry to develop the predictive models this role is responsible for.
  + Link: http://jobs.jobvite.com/careers/backcountry/job/ohIZ5fwN?\_\_jvst=Job%20Board&\_\_jvsd=Indeed

### Job 2

* + Company name: University of Utah
  + Title: Assistant Data Scientist
  + Why did you choose this job?
    1. I have always been interested in astrophysics and It would be very exciting to work with the Sloan Digital Sky Survey team.
  + Link:
    1. https://www.indeed.com/cmp/University-of-Utah/jobs/Assistant-Data-Scientist-497af1a2285465cb?q=data+scientist

### Job 3

* + Company name: Experticity
  + Title: Data Engineer
  + Why did you choose this job?
    1. Again, it would be fun to continue working in the outdoor industry. This role would provide the opportunity to work with big data and use my background in the outdoor industry to make a difference at a company I already know and trust.
  + Link: https://boards.greenhouse.io/experticity/jobs/879824?gh\_src=5acub81#.WhR55FWnHRY

### Job 4

* + Company name: Dash 2 Group
  + Title: Machine Learning Engineer
  + Why did you choose this job?
    1. I am very interested in machine learning.
  + Link:
    1. https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/445344102/

### Job 5

* + Company name: Cirrus Logic
  + Title: Machine Learning Engineer
  + Why did you choose this job?
    1. It seems very challenging and involves new and cutting-edge technology. I thoroughly enjoy working on innovative, developmental projects due to the exploratory nature of the work.
  + Link: http://jobs.jobvite.com/careers/cirruslogic/job/oj3E5fwP?\_\_jvst=Job%20Board&\_\_jvsd=Indeed

## Section 3: Your company hitlist

### Company 1

* + Company name: Amazon.com
  + Why did you choose this company?
    1. Amazon Alexa technology is super interesting to me. I am psyched on the idea of machine learning and AI.

### Company 2

* + Company name: Backcountry.com
  + Why did you choose this company?
    1. It is a local outdoor industry company that is one of the leading online retailers for outdoor equipment. There are a lot of data analytics positions and it would be fun to remain in the industry.

### Company 3

* + Company name: Google
  + Why did you choose this company?
    1. Lots of cutting edge developmental work. I would be surrounded by many intelligent people that I could learn from.

### Company 4

* + Company name: NASA
  + Why did you choose this company?
    1. Exploration at its finest.

### Company 5

* + Company name: Adobe
  + Why did you choose this company?
    1. Lots of opportunity for data scientists.

## Section 4: Find your people

### Local data science events:

* Hadoop & Data Science Lunch @ Adobe
* Provo Data Science Workshop #4 – Machine Learning Topics
* Brian Sletten – Machine Learning

### Local data scientist from a company on your hit list:

* Jes Ford – Data Scientist at Backcountry.com

### First or second degree connection in the industry:

* Ayla Khan – Data Engineer at ARUP Labs

## Section 5: Write your own story

### Describe your ideal job to an industry professional

My ideal job would involve working with big datasets using machine learning techniques, statistics, and data visualizations. I am very intrigued by AI as well and would love the opportunity to explore its usefulness. I want to be challenged and put into a working environment with likeminded individuals who are highly motivated and willing to work together to solve innovative and cutting-edge problems. The resulting product should make a positive impact on people’s lives.

### Describe the same job to a non-technical family member

My ideal job would challenge me and provide a lot of opportunity for learning. It should be in an industry I am passionate about and where I can make a difference. The product that the team works on should make a positive impact on people’s lives.

### Draft your aspirational professional summary

Using machine learning, statistics, and data visualization techniques to work with big data, I can decipher the story the data is trying to tell. I want to be challenged by problems that when solved will have a positive impact on people’s lives.