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ITK 191-001 Introduction to Professional Practice

08/31/2014

**Assignment 1 – Jobs and Skill Attainment**

*Entry-level Jobs*

1. Junior Java Developer (KForce in Austin, Texas) - <http://bit.ly/1B8tihz>
2. Entry Level Software Developer (GM Motors in Austin, Texas) – <http://bit.ly/VYJnXq>
3. AthenaHealth in Austin, Texas – <http://bit.ly/1rHK7Pt>

*Experience Jobs*

1. Senior Java Developer (Charlotte, North Carolina) - <http://bit.ly/1sTfLFv>
2. Senior Java Developer (Alpharetta, Georgia) - <http://bit.ly/1tmhoj7>
3. Senior Java Web Developer (Seattle, Washington) - <http://bit.ly/1pxvEnB>

I believe I possess most of the qualifications to receive an entry-level or junior developer position. Having worked in the IT industry for the past 5.5 years, I’ve learned a great deal about web and software development from my two bosses and mentors. The biggest lesson learned was that it’s not so important what programming language or software solution you use as to how well you can communicate and understand the requirements and how to implement them. My front end experience consists of HTML/JavaScript/CSS with some dabbling in frameworks (Bootstrap, jQuery, CSS grids) and back-end experience consists of XML/XSLT, Java, and PostgreSQL. I’ve worked on batch scripts in both Windows and Linux environments and have a solid base in using Linux.

Regarding employment down the road (5-8 years), the most important thing will be developing more experience in multiple sectors of the industry by continually finding new employment in various markets (healthcare – Carle, banking – Bank One, manufacturing – Caterpillar) so that you can develop an idea of how to understand business structure from top to bottom and how. Obviously, you also have to continue developing and expanding your skillset to meet the requirements of whatever job you hold. Continually updating your certifications and getting new ones will further pad your resume with achievements and better your qualifications.

Lastly, networking will be key. Often times, IT employees are viewed as antisocial or socially inept human beings. They are seen as followers, not leaders and have very ungrateful jobs (meaning those reliant on them are not thankful, but will take the opportunity to criticize when it’s there). LinkedIn as well as IT conferences, social gatherings, and fellow IT developers will play a huge role in continuing to expand your network and may play a pivotal role in getting you hired at the job of your dreams. It’s tempting to remain introverted, but if the goal is to make a lot of money, stepping out of your comfort zone will play a huge role in developing the social skills required to lead IT teams and/or work as a consultant.