

OUT OF THE BOX DEVELOPER

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LEVEL UP YOUR CAREER: LESSONS FROM A JAVA CHAMPION



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Level Up Your Career: Lessons from a Java Champion

A Q&A with Elder Moraes

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Introduction

Welcome to Your Next Career Level

In the ever-evolving world of software development, standing out is more than just writing good code. It's about sharing, learning, and contributing to a community that fuels innovation. In this exclusive Q&A, we sit down with **Elder Moraes**, a **Java Champion** and **Red Hat Advocate**, to uncover the key strategies that helped him rise in the industry.

Through his journey, Elder has learned invaluable lessons about **sharing knowledge, building a personal brand, leveraging communities, and continuous learning**. Whether you are a **beginner developer** or an **experienced engineer**, these insights will help you **level up your career** and become a recognized professional in your field.

Chapter 1: Getting Known Outside Your Company

"If the market doesn't know you're amazing, it's missing out on your knowledge."

Many developers work hard and gain recognition within their company but remain unknown in the broader industry. Elder emphasizes the importance of **sharing knowledge** as the first step to getting noticed outside your company.

How to Start Sharing Your Knowledge:

- **Write about what you learn** – Blog posts, LinkedIn articles, or Twitter threads are great places to start.
- **Give short presentations** – Share a concept with your team or at meetups.
- **Create videos or tutorials** – Even a simple explanation of an API can help someone.
- **Engage in discussions** – Comment on posts, answer questions, and be active in your tech community.

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Your knowledge is valuable to others—even if you're a beginner.
- ✓ Teaching others helps you learn more deeply.
- ✓ Start small; consistency is more important than complexity.

Chapter 2: Finding Your Voice in Tech

"There is space for everyone."

When sharing knowledge, **your perspective matters**. Different people explain concepts in unique ways, and your voice may resonate with someone struggling to understand a topic.

How to Develop Your Unique Voice:

- **Be yourself** – Share content in a way that feels natural to you.
- **Experiment** – Try different formats (videos, blogs, talks) and see what works best.
- **Engage with feedback** – Listen to what your audience finds helpful.

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Your explanation may be the one that helps someone understand.
- ✓ Being consistent builds your personal brand over time.
- ✓ Find the format that works best for you and your audience.

Chapter 3: Building Career-Boosting Habits

"Start small, build habits, and grow one percent a day."

Starting something new—whether it's writing, speaking, or coding—can feel overwhelming. Elder advises **breaking down big goals into small, manageable steps**.

Steps to Build a Habit:

1. **Start with tiny actions** – Write a LinkedIn post instead of a full article.
2. **Be consistent** – A small effort every day adds up over time.
3. **Increase difficulty gradually** – Expand your contributions as you become comfortable.

Key Takeaways:

- ✅ Start small to avoid feeling overwhelmed.
- ✅ **Daily progress** is more effective than bursts of motivation.
- ✅ Growth is a process—embrace the journey.

Chapter 4: The Power of Mentorship

"A mentor is like buying time—you grow faster with guidance."

Mentorship accelerates your career by helping you avoid common mistakes. Elder highlights how having a mentor **helped him grow 15 years in just three years**.

How to Find and Benefit from a Mentor:

- **Look for someone ahead of you** – Choose a mentor who has already achieved what you aspire to.
- **Be willing to learn** – A mentor's advice is valuable, but you must be willing to take action.
- **Offer something in return** – Even sharing updates on your progress keeps the mentor engaged.

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ A mentor **guides you through obstacles and helps you grow faster** .
- ✓ Invest in mentorship as you would in education.
- ✓ Apply what you learn—mentorship only works if you take action.

Chapter 5: Community: The Career Multiplier

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with a community."

Being part of a **tech community** helps you **learn faster, meet new people, and create opportunities**. Elder's journey was deeply influenced by communities like **SouJava** and **The Developer's Conference**.

Ways to Get Involved in a Tech Community:

- **Attend local meetups** – Even if you don't speak, networking is valuable.
- **Help organize events** – Volunteer to assist with tech groups.
- **Participate online** – Engage in Discord channels, GitHub discussions, and social media groups.

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Community helps you **go further, faster** .
- ✓ The best way to benefit is to **contribute first** .
- ✓ Even if you live far from major cities, online communities provide great opportunities.

Chapter 6: Becoming a Java Champion

"The Java Champion title is recognition for your contribution to the Java ecosystem."

Becoming a **Java Champion** is not about **fame**; it's about **impact**. It's a recognition for those who actively **contribute to the Java ecosystem**.

Steps to Become a Java Champion:

- **Share knowledge consistently** – Write, speak, and contribute to open source.
- **Engage in the Java community** – Attend events, mentor others, and collaborate.
- **Solve real problems** – Contribute valuable insights that help developers.

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Java Champions are recognized for **contributions, not titles** .
- ✓ Focus on **helping others** and success will follow.
- ✓ **Your impact matters more than your years of experience** .

Conclusion: Your Career, Your Growth

"Don't count the years, make the years count."

Elder's journey teaches us that success in tech isn't just about coding—it's about **sharing, growing, and being part of something bigger**. You don't need to be a Java Champion to apply these principles; you just need the **willingness to start**.

- ✅ **Start sharing** – No matter your level, your knowledge is valuable.
- ✅ **Find your voice** – There is **space for everyone** in the community.
- ✅ **Be consistent** – Growth happens **one step at a time** .
- ✅ **Seek mentorship** – Learning from others **accelerates your progress** .
- ✅ **Get involved** – **Communities multiply your impact and career opportunities** .

Want to connect with Elder Moraes? Follow him on:

- **Instagram:** [@eldermoraes](https://www.instagram.com/eldermoraes)
- **YouTube:** [youtube.com/eldermoraes](https://www.youtube.com/eldermoraes)
- **LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/in/eldermoraes](https://www.linkedin.com/in/eldermoraes)

Start now, and level up your career!