



## The Problem

When applying and interviewing for jobs, it's easy to lose track of which companies you applied to, when you applied, who you talked to, what stage of the interview process you're at, when to follow-up with a recruiter, etc.

To keep track of this information, some job hunters create Excel spreadsheets (like [this terrible one](#)), jot down notes on a notebook, or worse-- rely solely on their memory! These methods can be very cumbersome and may even hurt you in the job hunting process.

## The Solution

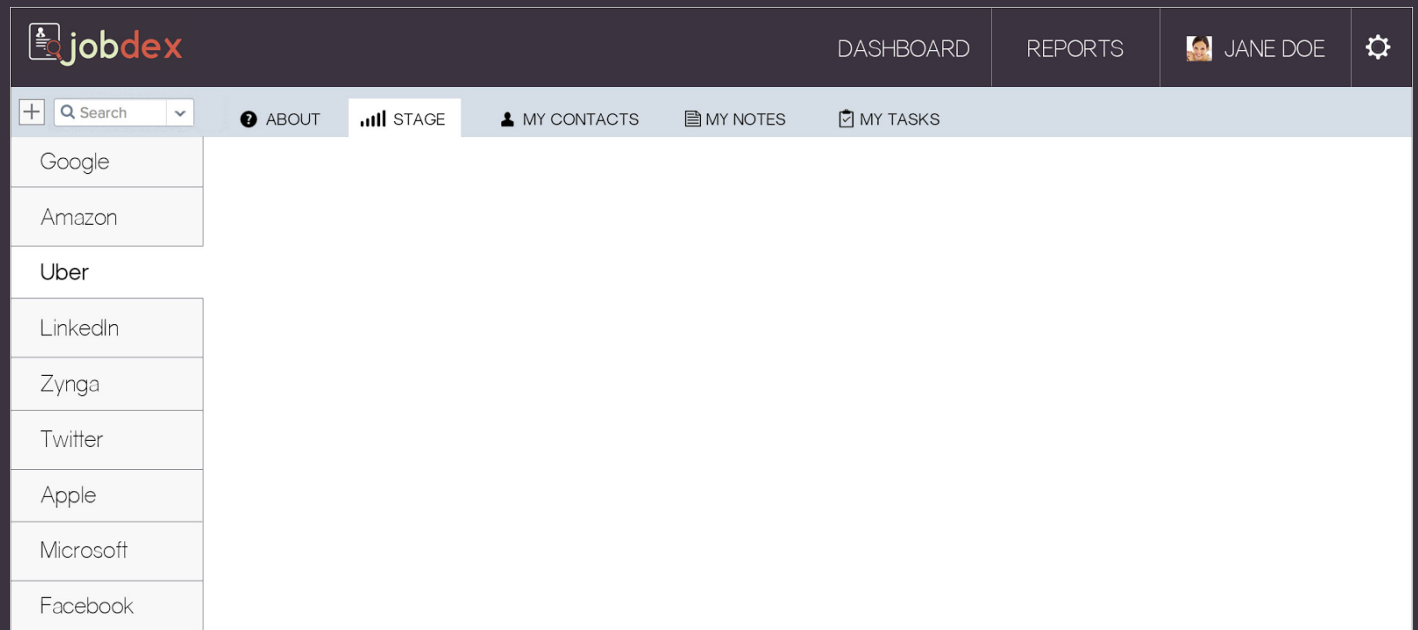
Jobdex is a tracking and management tool for the job search process. It helps you organize the companies you've applied to (or are planning to apply to) into "cards". Each card contains specific information about your job hunting progress within that particular company--such as the position(s) you applied for, the employees/recruiters you've spoken to, how you heard about the job, notes you took about the company based on research, the date you submitted your resume, and more. You can update each cards to reflect the progress you've made in the job hunting process for that company (e.g. second round interview). You can also rank the cards based on which companies are higher on your priority list.

## Customers

My customer is anyone applying to and interviewing for multiple jobs, although *initially*, I'd like to narrow that definition to college students--particularly those looking for full-time jobs after graduation or summer internships.

## Application Functionality

Figure 1.1 -- Rough mockup of Jobdex's "skeleton". Nothing here is finalized! Just an idea.



## Side Bar

- Each button represents a card that you added to your collection. A card contains specific information about your job hunting progress within a particular company.
- This sidebar will always be visible no matter where you are on the application. (In the future, there could be a little arrow icon that the user can click to hide the sidebar if they wish)
- I didn't put this on the mockup, but I want to add colored dots next to each company name that indicate the status of your job hunt for that company, and then the user can sort the sidebar by dot color. For example:
  - **green dot** : *in progress pursuit*
  - **red dot** : *closed pursuit (e.g. rejected or you don't care about the company anymore)*
  - **blue dot** : *received job offer!*

## Main Menu Bar

- **"Dashboard"** -- This is the default "landing page" you see when you log into your account. The dashboard will list all your recent activity (e.g. 9/5/14 - Paulina added "Amazon" to her company collection). It'll be similar to the Facebook news ticker.
- **"Reports"** -- This section aggregates all of your activity and shows it to you through easy-to-interpret graphs and reports. Examples include:
  - # of companies you applied to in the last 7 days
  - # of phone interviews you have scheduled for the month of September
  - which positions you applied to the most (e.g. Software Engineer vs. Product Manager)

- which industries you applied to the most (e.g. Tech vs. Business)
- average time it takes for a recruiter to follow-up with you
- **Your Name** -- Hovering over your name on the top right populates four options:
  - 1. My Profile (edit your profile picture and information)
  - 2. Log Out (self-explanatory)
  - 3. Help (documentation on how to use Jobdex)
  - 4. About (info about Jobdex, like mission statement and press releases)
- **Gear icon** -- Clicking this takes you to the Settings page where you can tweak your account settings, like changing your password.

## Sub Menu Bar (gray)

- **search box** -- You can search cards in your collection by company name, industry, or other relevant tags.
- **plus sign button** -- Click this to add a new card to your collection.
- **card-specific tabs**
  - **"About"** -- This lists information about the company, such as their name, website URL, and Glassdoor reviews. This information can either be manually inputted by the user or autofilled by making API calls to a website that contains a rich database of companies (like Glassdoor). The app itself could even have its own internal database of companies that was perhaps scraped elsewhere. This tab will also show the positions you applied to in that particular company and when.
  - **"Stage"** -- This is what stage you're at in the job search process for that company. I picture this to be a vertical timeline infographic with tick marks that indicate the stage. The user can choose from several stages (depending on the order they went through them). Examples of stages are:
    - Initial contact
    - Resume submitted
    - Phone interview
    - Behavioral interview
    - Technical interview
    - On-site interview
  - **"My Contacts"** -- This lists the employees/recruiters from the company that you've talked to. I imagine this to be a pretty table with columns, such as:

Name	Title	When did you meet them?	Where did you meet them?	Contact Info	Notes

Joe Smith	Recruiter	9/1/14	Cal Career Fair	joe@amazon.com	says they're hiring mostly backend engineers
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Or instead of a table, it could be profile tiles that just shows the name, photo and title of the person, and then you click the tile for more information. Similar to how LinkedIn populates search results. It would be cool if there was a picture associated with the contact name so you can remember their face. Jobdex could be integrated with LinkedIn to get each contact's pictures.

- **"My Notes"** -- There could be multiple notes in here with different titles (e.g. *Notes from Phone Interview*). Basically whatever the user wants to put down in here. The layout of this tab can be similar to Evernote in how multiple notes are listed under one notebook.
- **"My Tasks"** -- This is a list of tasks you want to complete for this company, such as *"Research Amazon's most commonly asked interview questions"*. You can even set a deadline for yourself and sync it to your Google Calendar. You can also use this feature to add an important event that'll sync to your Google Calendar, such as *"On-site interview -- 10/5/14"*. I'm not yet sure if I want to keep this feature because I don't like the idea of tasks being spread out among different cards, but it's just a thought.

## Extra Features

These features would also be cool to have on the app, time permitting:

- Upload files within each card, such as a scan of a recruiter's business card or a flyer you got from a career fair
- Easy user sign-up via Google or LinkedIn account
- Salary input / calculator and a way to compare salary offers among your different cards
- Achievements to unlock (Toggl and Trello do this!)
- Rank companies by preference
- Custom alerts, such as:
  - email or text alerts for an upcoming job interview
  - job fair/info session alerts (perhaps initially scrape this from the EECS Event Calendar or Career Center calendar)
- Integration with popular job search engines (e.g. CareerBuilder, Monster)
- Sync with mail client (like Gmail) so you can categorize and store your email conversations with recruiters/employees in Jobdex
- User recommendations for interview prep resources (e.g. user has coding interview coming up in 2 weeks → Jobdex recommends them to buy & read *Cracking the Coding Interview* from Amazon; here are monetization possibilities here)
- Discussion forum or community where Jobdex users share interviewing advice/tips with each other

- In-depth company analytics under the “About” tab within each card (e.g. how well the company’s stocks have been doing, recent innovations, recent mentions in the press)

## Testing

- Unit testing frameworks (e.g. RSpec)
- Following a test-driven development approach in general
- User testing (demos, design critiques, field observations)
- Quality Assurance testing

## Demo

Customers (college students looking for summer internships or full-time jobs after graduation) will demo the app. While this tool can be used by any job hunter in general, it’ll be more practical to narrow the scope to job hunters among the college student population (at least for now). I can walk through the features of the app, such as how a user can create a card and fill in information within that specific card. Then I can pick test subjects to actively use the app themselves during recruiting season and continue to gather feedback from them on features that they might find confusing or features they wish the app had. I can also demo this to developers at the Career Center and see how it appeals to them in comparison to Callisto, just to get a different perspective from a group that builds career tools for students.

## Justification

This app can be built by a team of 6 by splitting the tasks as such:

- Person #1 can work on the UI/UX and frontend development
- Person #2 and #3 can work on the main menu pages (Dashboard, Reports, My Profile, Settings)
- Person #4 and #5 can work on the features of each individual card by splitting them both ways
- Person #6 can work on scaffolding the backend and user database, then help out with the main menu pages or card features if s(he) has extra time

If all of the basics are built (see: main menu pages and card features on mockup), the team can start tackling any of the “Extra Features” listed, depending on how much time remains and which extra features they find most interesting.

The team will take 3 weeks to do specs, design and planning, followed by 8 weeks to do testing and programming. I predict that the spec/design stage may finish early, since I already have mockups of the Jobdex logo and UI.

# My Inspirations

- Trello (the concept of "cards")
- the word "rolodex" and "index" (fused with "job" to form word "jobdex")
- my own job hunting woes and experiences :P
- Toggl's "reports" feature

*Note: There's only one other web application that's similar to my idea called StartWire. Their UI is terrible and the widgets are confusing to use. StartWire also mercilessly spams you with job ads and job listings -- probably how they monetize.*