

Confidence and Competence

*"You can, you should, and
if you're brave enough to
start, you will."*

– Stephen King

A Little Background

About Me

- work at home mama / professional photographer
- 2 kids who were 6 and 2 when I started
- gSchool January 2015 - July 2015
- Started working for Utivity at the end of July 2015
- Became Associate Instructor at Galvanize in May 2016



The Stack I Learned in School

- Ruby on Rails
- PostgreSQL
- HTML/CSS
- Javascript

Tips for Success

Know Your Why



Keep a code Diary

- running list of past problems and how you solved them
- running list of questions you are still wondering about
- reusable content for blog posts, resumés, and cover letters
- talking points for interviews
- identify areas of improvement

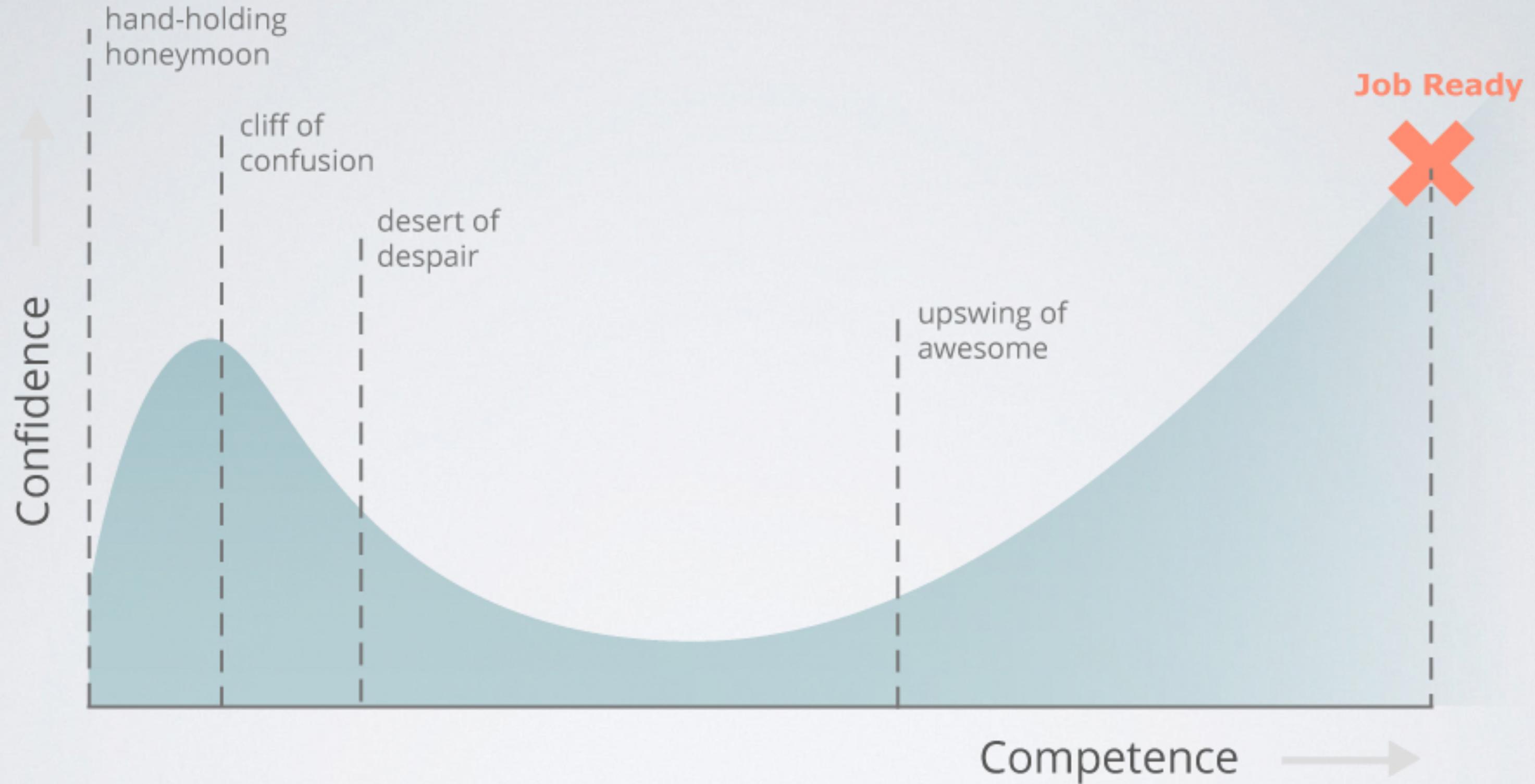
Problem Solve

- Read (trusted resources and Google)
- Organize your thoughts
- Ask an experienced developer good questions (resources, debugging)



Sleep

The Confidence/ Competence chart



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Real Talk

Let's take a look at my first 4 months after code school...



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Our Stack

- HTML5
- SCSS
- Bootstrap
- Python/Django
- Javascript/Angular



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Then... First BIG Project - Map Search Results

- Map the results of the user search
- Biggest Challenges: The Angular Google Maps directive, debugging, navigating the codebase, and not bursting into tears at work.
- Timeline: approximately a month.

NOOOOO!!!!



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NOOOOO!!!!

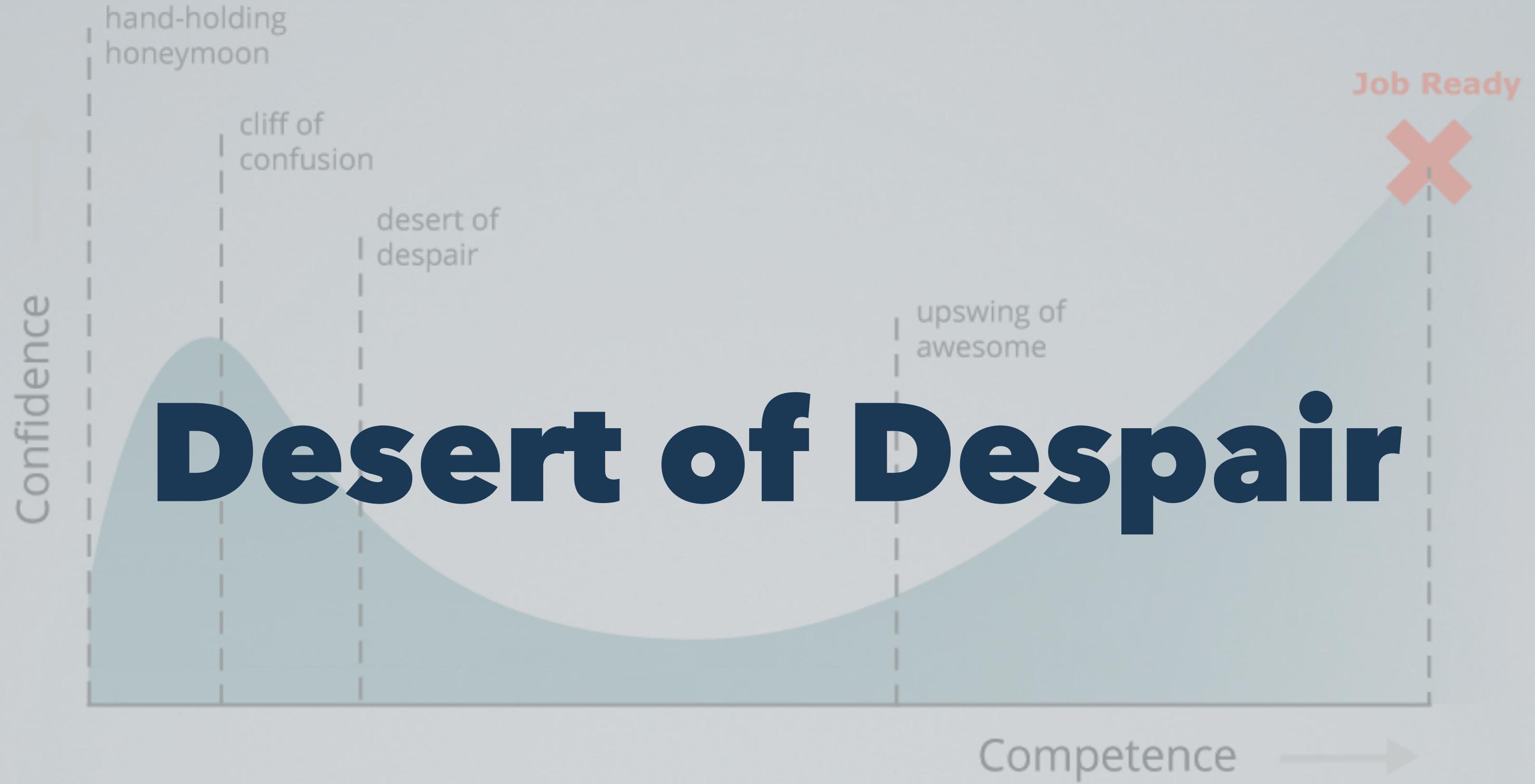


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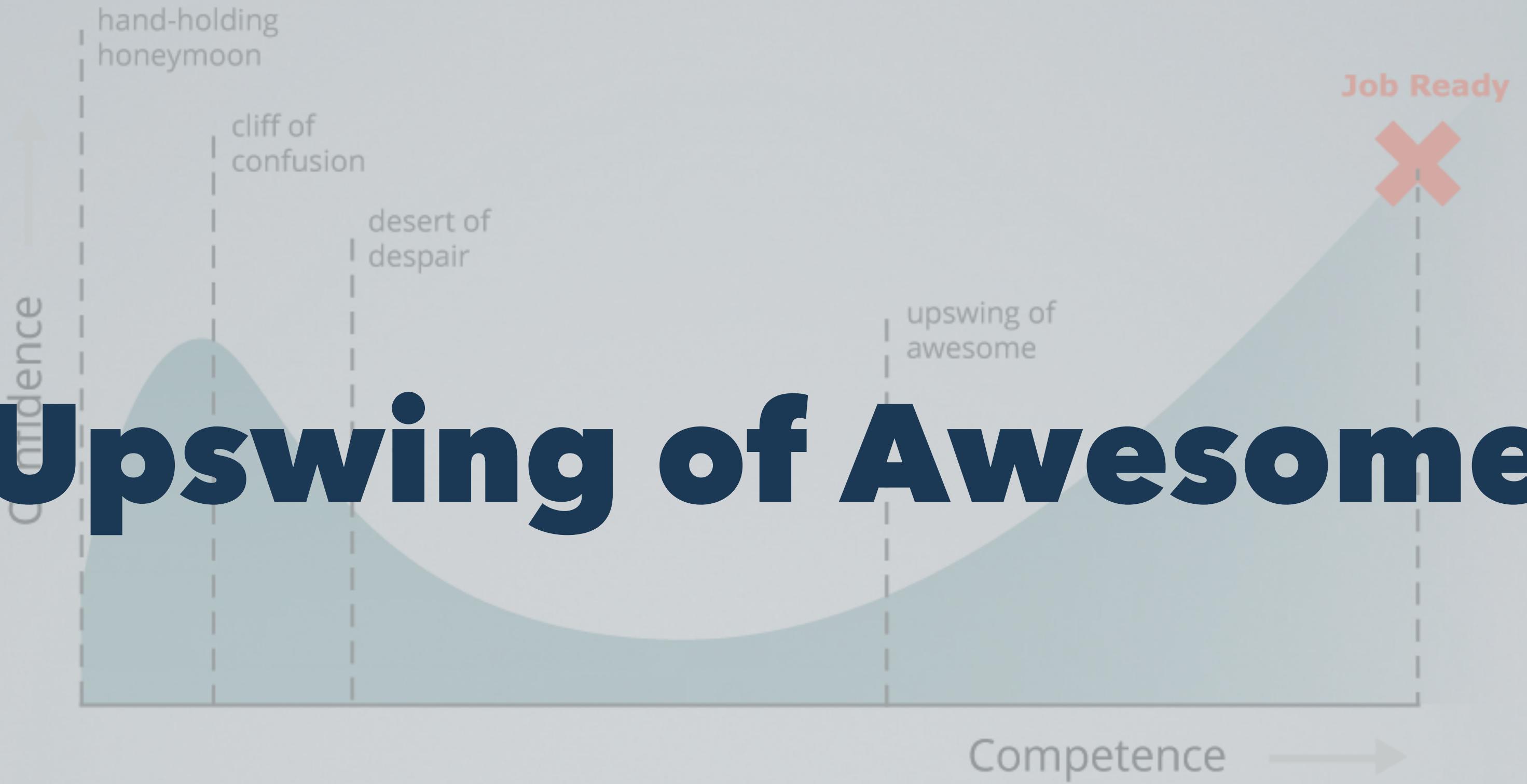
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I had a series of
confidence builders

Projects

- User Review - Remind users to fill out review form.
- User Email Project - Implement a new email campaign design and update the delivery parameters.
- Biggest Challenges: Custom data migrations, old school html.
- Timeline: approximately 2 weeks each.

Upswing of Awesome

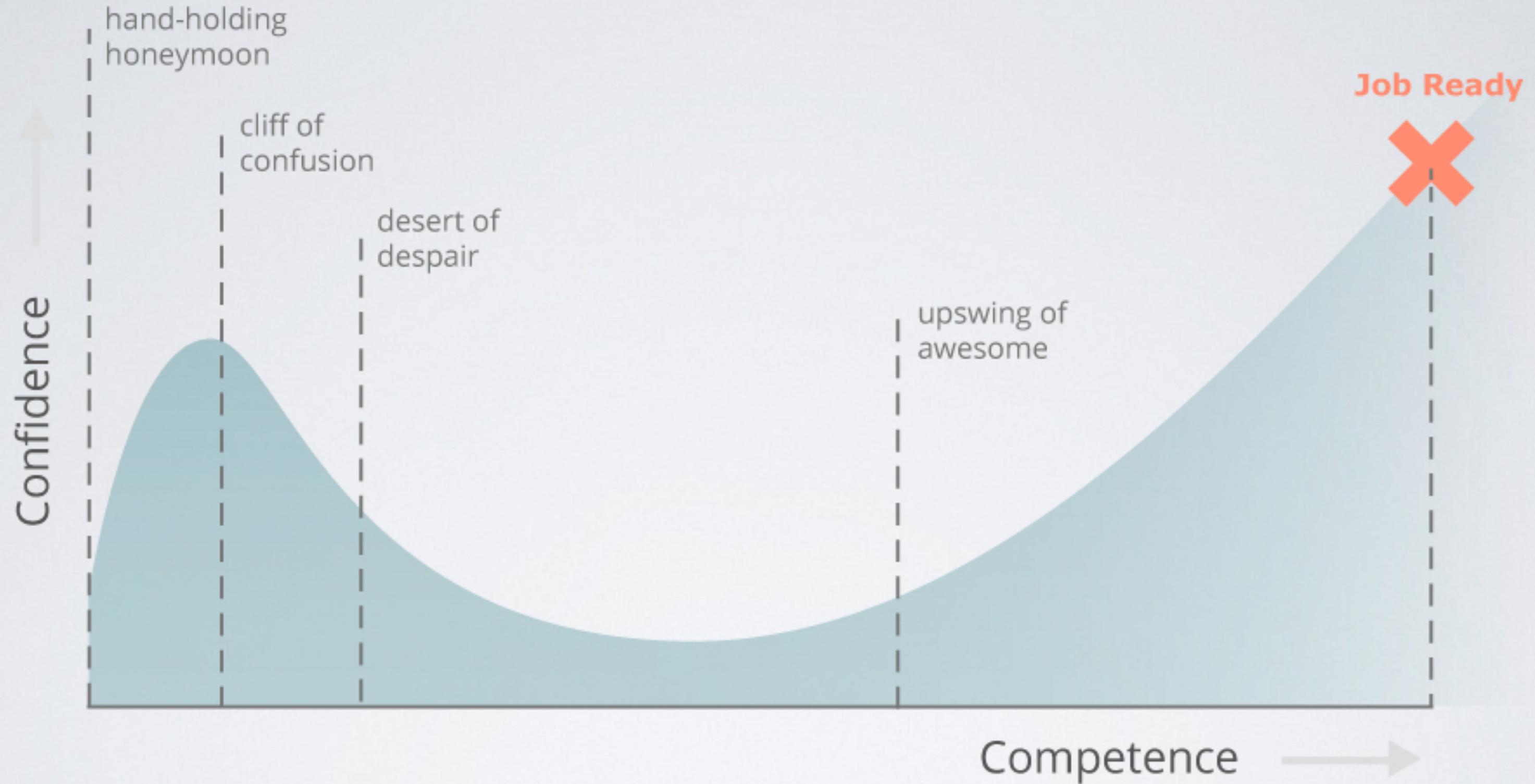


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Then I was in familiar territory

- I was revisiting and adding to earlier projects
- Biggest win: I realized how much I had learned over the course of 2.5 months - Django REST services, Angular directives, Google Maps. Big confidence boost.
- Biggest challenge: All the CSS. UTTER DESPAIR. "This is impossible."

Let's Recap



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So what can you do to get out of the despair zone?

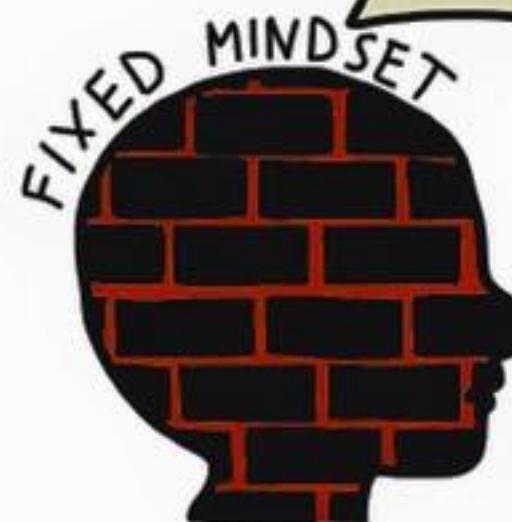
CRUSH CODE

constantly...don't quit

but DO take breaks

**Have a Growth
Mindset**

10 Growth Mindset Statements



What can I say to myself?

INSTEAD OF:

I'm not good at this.

I'm awesome at this.

I give up.

This is too hard.

I can't make this any better.

I just can't do Math.

I made a mistake.

She's so smart. I will never be that smart.

It's good enough.

Plan "A" didn't work.



TRY THINKING:

1 What am I missing?

2 I'm on the right track.

3 I'll use some of the strategies we've learned.

4 This may take some time and effort.

5 I can always improve so I'll keep trying.

6 I'm going to train my brain in Math.

7 Mistakes help me to learn better.

8 I'm going to figure out how she does it.

9 Is it really my best work?

10 Good thing the alphabet has 25 more letters!

**Find a
Cheerleader

teacher, peer, mentor,
friend, yourself**



**Let me tell you what
my cheerleader has
told me...**

Develop Your Skills

Don't Be Afraid

Ask for Feedback

Sell Your Strengths

Show Your Flexibility

Admit Your Weaknesses

Always be Learning

' minutes after midnight?

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I love it!
It's very
challenging!