

## Springboard Curriculum 6.1) Effective Networking

### Item 6: Project: Attend a Data Science Meetup

Link to Google Document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cYXeH6JOW6CgGvnYpVitmL9H3QwZL6DGdxS67mcfu9g/edit>

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, I attended a meetup organized by the San Francisco Python Meetup group held at Yelp's corporate headquarters in downtown San Francisco. SF Python meets monthly, and I previously attended one of their events several months ago. The organizers designated this particular gathering as a 'project night'. The project night versions of this meetup are less structured and lack the formal presentation characteristic of regular meetings. The fluid schedule of project nights allows attendees to divide themselves into one of a number of pre-designated special interest groups (SIG's) led by one or a few leaders.

I joined the PyData SIG and listened to a short presentation about Gaussian Mixed Models delivered by Brian Spiering who teaches data science at USF. As planned by the organizers, the short duration of the presentation allowed time for informal small group discussions and for attendees to work on their own projects and ask questions. I began working on a Springboard assignment but quickly realized that my laptop lacked sufficient memory to accomplish the analysis.

Although I missed the opportunity to seek help on my assignment, I found several opportunities to network. I spoke with our group's presenter and learned about how he uses python, slack and other tools for class management. I started a conversation with some attendees seated near me by mentioning the San Francisco Giants' baseball hat worn by one of them. That conversation ultimately revealed that sitting across from me was George London, who works as a Lead Data Engineer at a company called Survata. I used this opportunity to ask him a question about python's pandas relevant to one of my current Springboard assignments. George encouraged me to attend an upcoming meetup organized by San Francisco PyData – an organization arguably even more relevant to my interests in data science. I also spoke with a few other attendees and found comforting to compare notes with those also transitioning between careers.