How to Get That High-Paying Job

You have mastered the most essential concepts in Data Science now. Obviously, there are a gazillion technologies, techniques, algorithms and everything in between that a Data Scientist "must" know. Should you try to learn everything before you feel qualified to apply for a Data Scientist job? Definitely not! Don't get trapped in the black hole of attempting to tick every check box in the world. Chances are you will stay stuck ticking check boxes. It might eventually work, but it would be an inefficient process. There is a good reason why there is the concept of **learning on the job**. Let me give you two smart approaches to launch your career as a Data Scientist based on your personality type.

What kind of person are you?

1. You like to stick to more conventional ways.
2. You like to go against conventions and hack your way to your goals, with a *"no-matter-what-it-takes"* attitude.

If your answer is 1, pick route A. If you chose 2, pick route B. If you are in between, read both and decide based on what sounds best to you.

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Route A: The Public Portfolio

1. Think about your dream job as a Data Scientist. Which industry would it be in? Do you see yourself in finance, sports, health, fitness, beers, cookies, oceans? What are the things that pique your curiosity?

2. Have you identified your kick? Good! Now find a public dataset from that field and press the fast-forward button: imagine that you are giving a presentation about your awesome project. What stories from your data would you be telling your audience? How would you be providing value to the people listening? Based on this vision of your future presentation, reverse engineer the problem, formulate interesting questions, and define the end goal for your project.

3. Once you are done with your exciting project, put the bait on the hook and throw it in the water. Build a PUBLIC portfolio and MAKE SOME NOISE! Use the power of LinkedIn to reach out to recruiters let your portfolio do the talking instead of some boring conventional CV. Go to meetups and talk to people about your projects. Use the power of networking events to find potential employers.

Your portfolio will already unlock many doors. But if on top of that, your topic and findings are valuable to a large audience, you'll be receiving more incoming recruiting calls than you can imagine.

If it wasn't obvious enough, you will end up with a lot more than a compelling portfolio, you will have learned the latest tools and techniques in a fun, curiosity-driven, and lasting way.

Route B: The Uncommon Way

This is the uncommon path, not for the faint of heart.

I am going to give you an uncommon approach that can make you instantly standout from the crowd and get you that high-paying job. It is a deceptively simple approach, but only suitable for those who can take on difficult challenges and do whatever it takes to reach their goals. Are you ready for it? So here is goes:

Find a company that you would like to work at. Reach out to the decision

makers in the company using LinkedIn, references, or even just walk in. And

offer to work for FREE for 2 months and while being assessed on the performance. Yes, insist that you don't want a salary, or even a stipend. Say that, *"I'm here to learn and assess the suitability of this role for me"*. Then buckle down to work for those 2 months and focus on providing VALUE. You will have become a very valuable resource by the end and you will be surprised how much they'll want you to stay with a high-paying offer after those 2 months. That's it. Two months and the job will be yours.

Route A or Route B, you have the key to unlock that high-paying job as a Data Scientist at your dream company.

P.S. If you spend even a couple weeks doing this, it will change your life.