Graduated, Now What?

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Presentation Focus

▶ Presentation is designed to give advice for college students or young engineers who are looking to enter the marketplace.

  ▶ Will have some tips that are geared for C++ engineers, yet will try to focus on general hints.

  ▶ Go beyond the clichés with some real world examples.

Be Dynamic

Be Passionate

Be Proactive

Be Fearless

Tips

Watch the markets

▶ 2 years ago it was difficult for entry level engineers to join the work place.

▶ 2 years ago, employers could wait for the right candidate and in some cases just took the next person because they could not find the perfect candidate

▶ However, now the situation has changed to where there are more job openings than qualified engineers.

What to do during tough times

- Need to play the long game
  - May need to consider three areas of interest.
  - May need to network through other avenues than just the field you are trying to enter
  - May need to move to another area.
  - May need to take a position with less pay
- Need to evaluate your resources
- Need to make yourself visible
- May need to take positions that are not within your area of interest.
- Get contract work.

Confidence

- How do you gain confidence in any economic cycle?
  - Do some projects that are easy to build and deploy it.
  - Be honest with yourself.
  - Do not expect anyone to assist you.
  - However, build a network of people that you can point to as SME
  - Give a presentation on anything
  - Write a paper
  - Blog, answer a question on one of the Q & A forums, write an application around a concept

Networking

- CppCon
- NWCPP
- Hackathon
- Work with college age students
  - Assist them to best prepare for the job market
  - Assist them with opportunities
    - Networking
    - Volunteer
      - Conferences
      - User Groups
      - Tutor

Networking Continued

- Become a teacher or a mentor
- Meet the movers and shakers in the industry you wish to pursue
  - Get their email
  - Ask questions
  - Ask if there is a publication that they need some proofreading, testing, etc.

Dilbert's Theory of Why Sales Makes More Money.

$P = F * V$

$P = F * D/T$

Knowledge = Power

Time = Money

$\$ = F * D / K$

So as knowledge approaches 0, money approaches infinity

Practice, Practice, Practice

Interview Tips

- Technical interviews
  - Assembler – will focus on stack and bit manipulation
    - Understand how C++ passes parameters via the stack and local variables
      - Consider Instance versus static
  - C++ - will focus on data structures
    - Mostly on linked lists. Queue and Stack algorithms are variations of Linked Lists
    - Some BST, like find max depth or print in order
  - Managed code will focus on string object

More Tips

- Code examples used for interviews (tons of them)
  - https://www.geeksforgeeks.org
  - StackOverflow can answer some intrinisic information about how something operates
- C++ forums
  - https://isocpp.org/
  - https://isocpp.org/std/forums

Conclusion

Communication

Think of the team first

Self-discipline