# Survival in technology

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# I am not an expert but I play one at my current job

Found a few techniques that worked better than others on my recent "experience" with job searching.

Your experiences will be much different, but maybe there is something you did not think of!

# Hope for the best, prepare for the worst

Even if you are not looking for a new job currently, you might find yourself looking for one soon!

Prepare now! Take some steps that look really good to an employer.

# Are you ready to tell your story?

**Who are you?** Where did you come from? What do you have that others do not? What brought you here today?

If someone created the perfect job for you. What would the perfect job for you be (you still have to work)?

Work on "elevator pitches" about yourself. This was hard for me to do!

# Your brand matters, create one or groom yours

Potential employers will search for your details!

- Make sure your online presence is positive and consistent

We are all incredibly biased about ourselves, it may <u>not</u> be enough to "google" yourself.

- Have <u>someone else</u> search for you by whatever means they want, and report back what they found

# Brand

Create or update your website, blog, or social media accounts to showcase your professional skills.

If you have social media, make sure it is something you would show your boss.

Use and update LinkedIn. (I hate it but it does generate some leads!)

When you find something that is an issue, clean, mitigate or purge.

# Brand - get involved outside of work

Make sure you can point to and have stories for projects/associations or other things outside of work.

Potential employers do not care if you are into sports teams, but they will look at technology related activities.

Examples:

Meetups, KLUG (bonus points if you are a speaker), Makerspaces, conferences, technical support for your family, any other technology related activities.

# Software engineers should be in github

Some companies may not let you contribute to specific open source projects, some will.

Public repositories show that you know what you are doing.

Create, find or contribute to a project if you don't already.

This shows your experience in the industry and is important to employers

# Dust off the interviewing skills

Lots of questions about situations:

- Describe a situation when you disagreed with your boss.
- Tell me how you would handle a difficult coworker.
- Tell me about a time when you were behind schedule and what you did to get back on schedule.

Have these answers clear, concise and ready to go.

# Interviewing skills

Search for common interview questions on the Internet.

If it helps make flash cards, or write down your answers and read your answers aloud so they sound believable and coherent.

**STAR** - **S**ituation, **T**ask, **A**ction, **R**esult

Interview skills will take more work the longer you have been away from interviews

# Find and use resources that are there to help

The Rochester Workforce center is connected to the RCTC buildings!

- The "**Job Club**" is a regular meeting on Tuesdays to help **EVERYONE** with finding a job.

Go to Job Fairs even if you don't think you will find anything

- Gives you an opportunity to work on your interviewing skills

I don't see enough "technical" people taking advantage of these  fine resources

# Attitude is everything

If you are positive and looking for jobs, watch out you might find more than one!

If you do not think you will find one, you may have more trouble.

Deal with your feelings before going on interviews and do not be negative.

Walk into the interviews with confidence, not cocky-ness.

# Discussion

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Questions, disagreements, concerns?

# Book Recommendations

The Rochester Public Library has a surprising number of job search books.

**Eliminated! Now what?** *-* by Jean Baur

**What color is your parachute?** *-* by Richard N. Bolles