

# MS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB SEARCH

*Patty Lopez, Intel Corporation*

*Jennifer Hill, Capital One*



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# Agenda

- Possible career paths with an MS degree
- Finding an industry position
- How to present yourself
- Writing a resume that attracts attention, the importance of your LinkedIn profile
- The interview (before, during & after)
- Career growth & advancement



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***What* can you do now to prepare for your job search?**

# What

- Attend technical conferences and workshops
- Use your professional network
- Maintain an updated LinkedIn profile
- Participate in hackathons, bug bounties and company campus visits
- Attend career fairs
- Use recruiters
- Search broadly



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***Where can I get a job?***

# Where

Many tech jobs are not in tech companies

- Government
- Telecommunications
- Education
- Healthcare...

There are many positions for Master graduates:

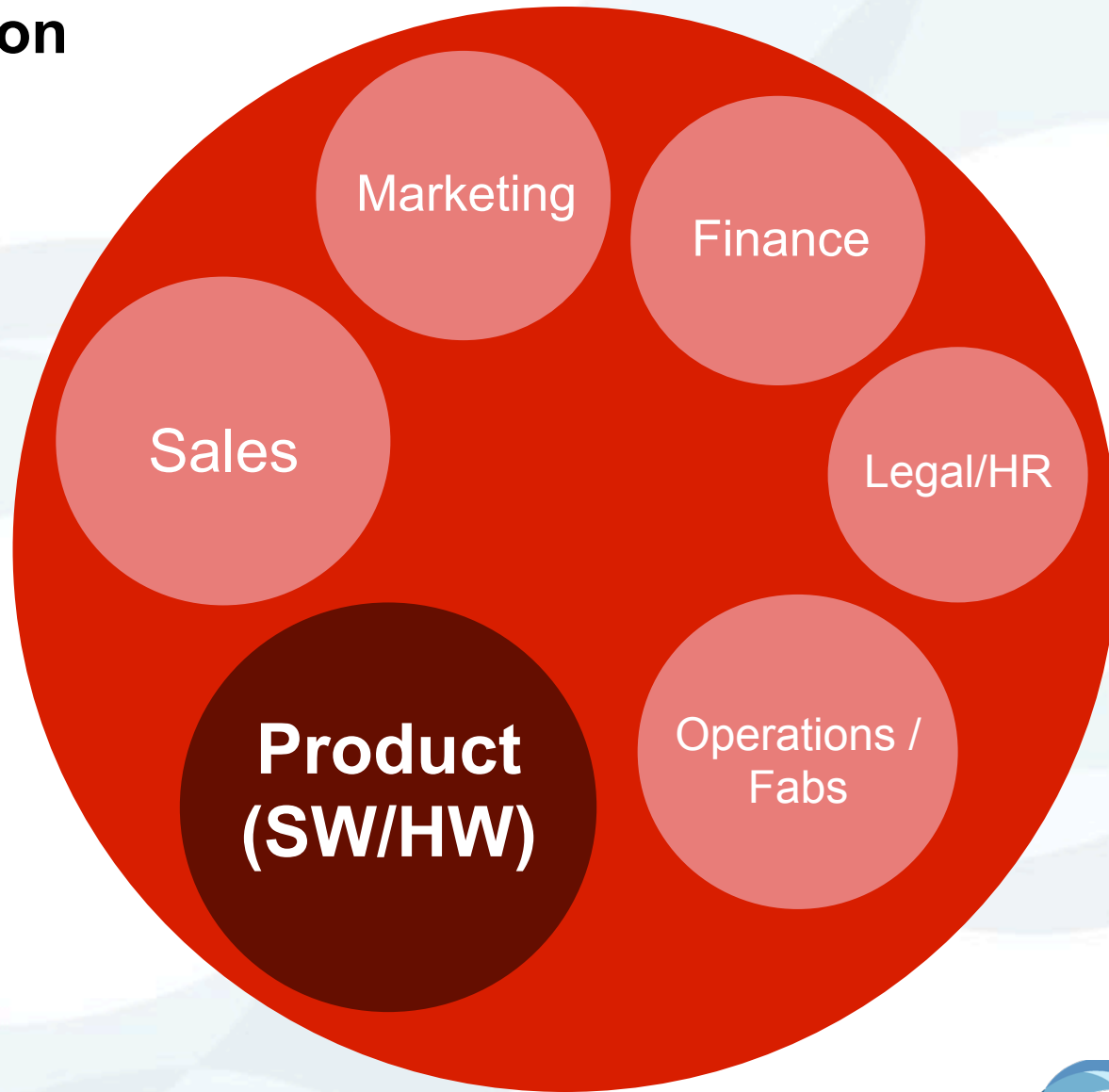
- Developer
- Program/Product Manager
- User Experience Designer / Researcher
- Data Scientist
- Product Evangelist
- Consultant
- Research Scientist (go on to Grad School – yay!)



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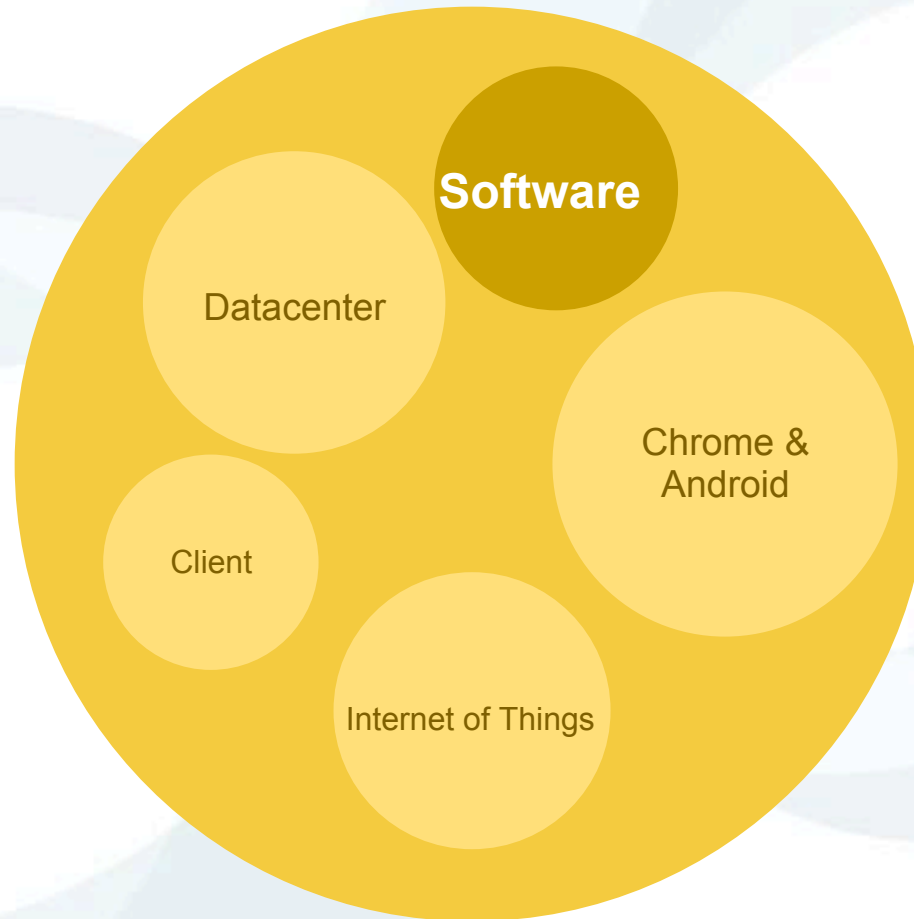
# Organization



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# Organization → Product



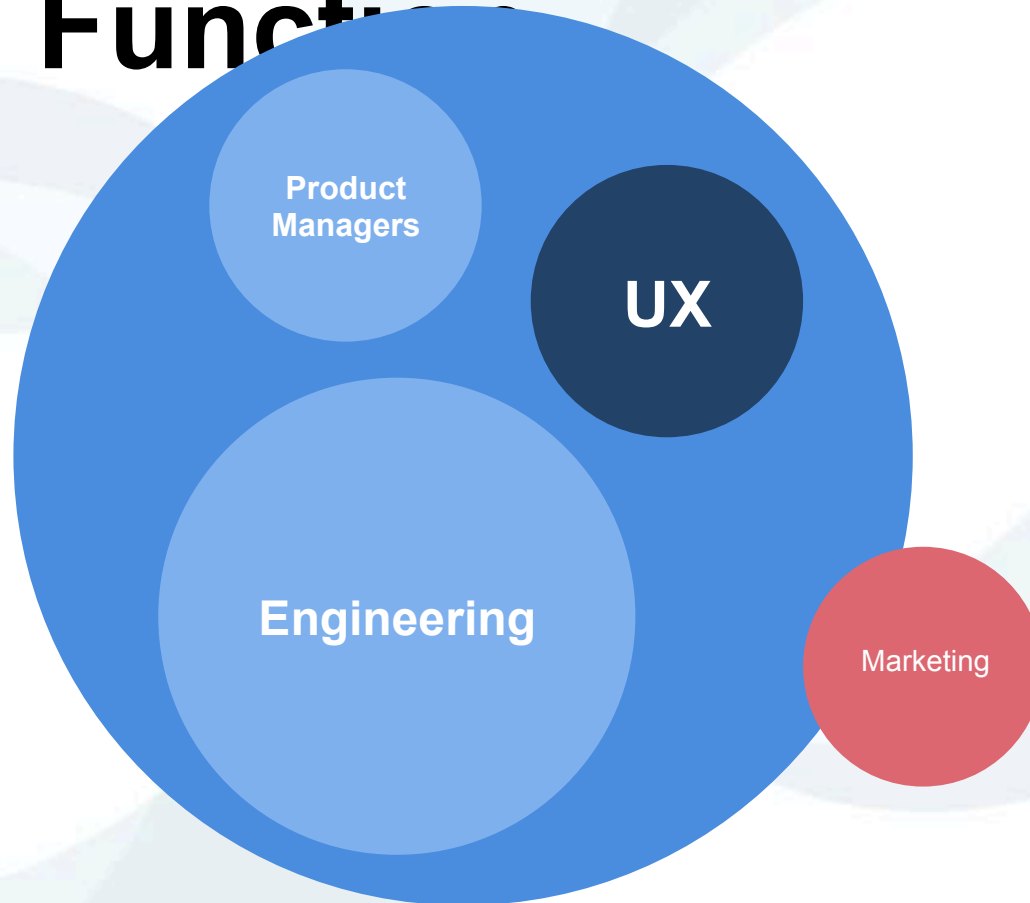
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Organization → Product →

# Function

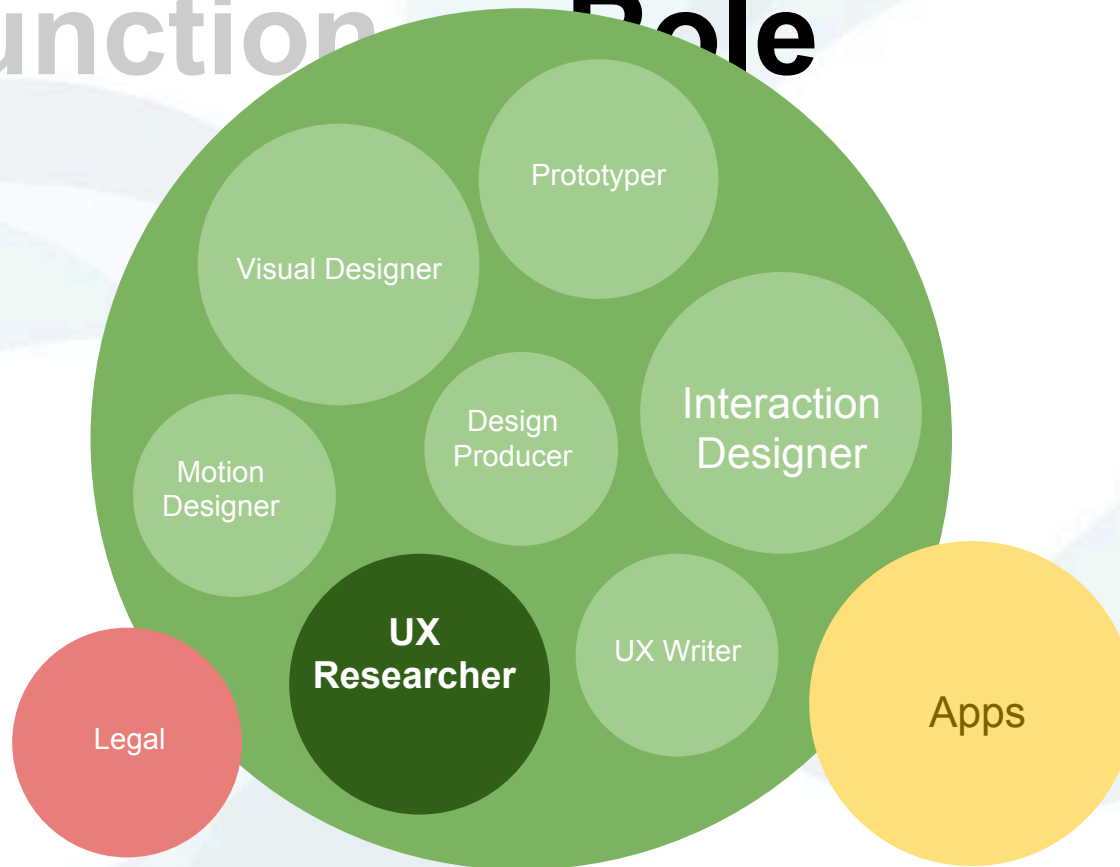


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# Organization → Product →

## Function Role



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## Big to mid-size company

### **Scale**

Resources  
Specific role  
Career path

## Start-up

Higher risk

### **Role breadth**

Less bureaucracy  
Move faster

## Freelance

Range of work

### **Career freedom**

Less constraints  
Autonomy



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# Capital one

*Changing Banking for Good*

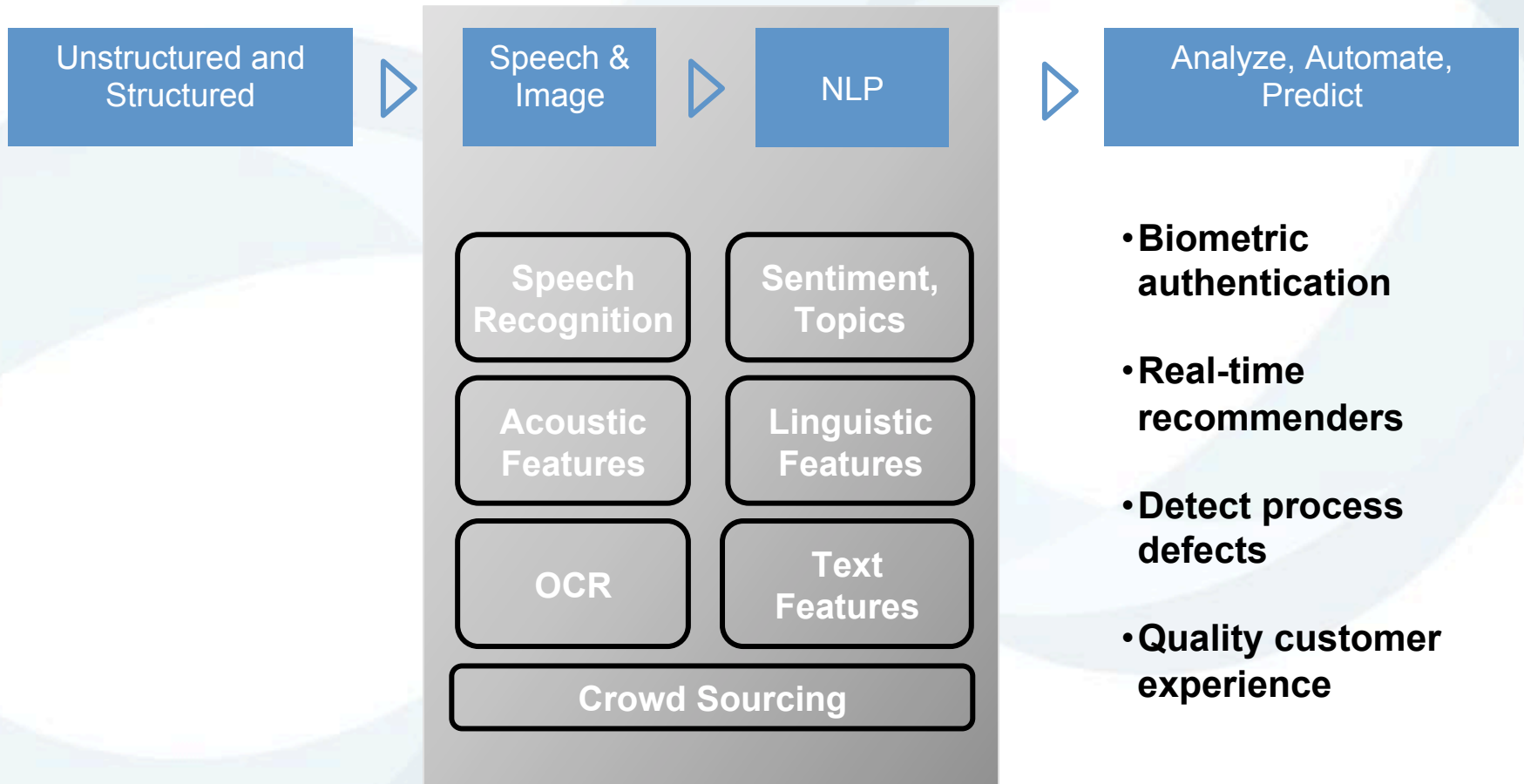


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# **Career opportunities in Data science**

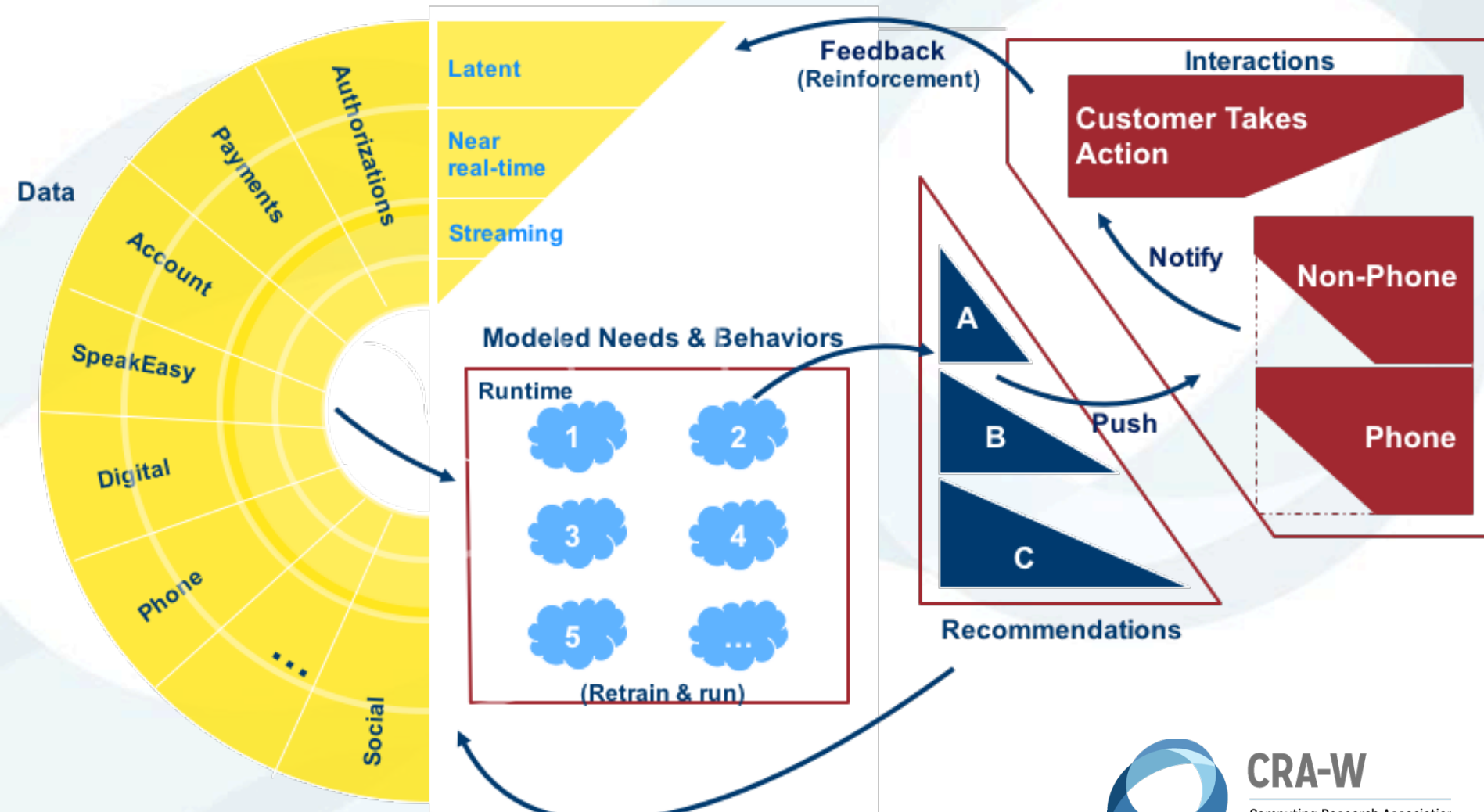
# Build a unifying representation of customers & needs



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# Then help customers succeed in managing their finances



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***How do I prepare for the job market?***



# INTERNSHIPS

# How - Preparing

- Be proactive: target skills for your dream job(s) and assess gaps
  - Open source community, github, Stack Overflow
  - internships: real-world experience is valued
  - network
- Know your resume inside-out
  - What did you do?
  - Why was it important?
  - Technical challenges?
- Why are you interested in this particular company?
  - What is its story?
  - Where is it going?



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# Standard Resume



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## CAREER OBJECTIVE

To obtain an entry-level position as a computer systems programmer.

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## EDUCATION

California State University, Fullerton

*Bachelor of Science, Computer Science*

Graduated Magna Cum Laude

May 2010

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## RELATED COURSES

- Data Structures Concepts
- Object-Oriented Programming Language
- Computer Organization and Assembly Language
- Programming Languages and Translation
- Foundations of Software Engineering
- File Structures and Database Systems

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## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Certifications:** CompTIA A+, HDI Helpdesk Certified
- **Languages:** Visual Basic, SQL, HTML, ASP, CSS, C++, CGI, Perl, Java
- **Operating Systems:** Windows, UNIX, Linux
- **Database Systems:** Oracle, ADB2, Relational Databases

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

New Computer Company

Brea, CA

*Customer Service Representative*

August 2009 - Present

- Assist customers by addressing software installation and operation questions
- Provide support to Customer Service Training Program
- Participate in extensive product training program
- Prepare monthly reports

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## LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- President of Upsilon Pi Epsilon (International honor society for computing and information disciplines), Fall 2009 - Spring 2010
- Active member of Association for Computing Machinery, Fall 2008- Spring 2010

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## FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Fluent in Vietnamese

# Tailored Resume

- What makes you stand out?
- How do you customize to that organization?
- Quantify and use action words: Led, Drove, Collaborated, Managed



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# How – Finding Opportunities

- Use your professional network
- Use recruiters
- LinkedIn is your friend
- Hackathons, bug bounties, open source community
- Company campus visits
- Conferences
- Search broadly



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# How - Interviewing

- Engineering Interview
  - Programming test
    - Cracking the Coding Interview
  - Algorithms questions
- Manager interview
  - Soft skills
  - Fit
- Never turn down a reasonable opportunity to interview
- Many companies have interview prep material online



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# Interview – get ready

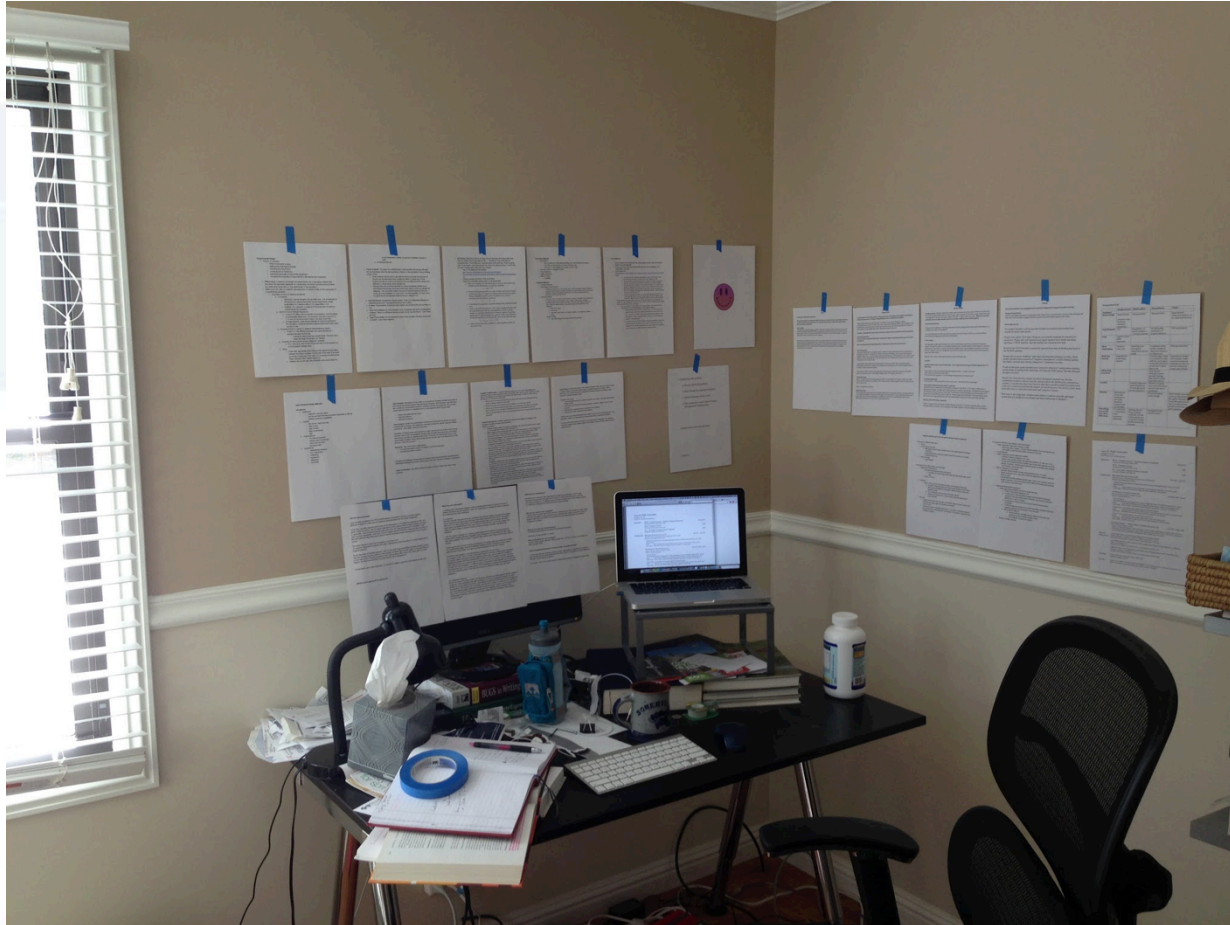
- Review fundamentals: algorithms, data structures
- Practice coding on a whiteboard; it is not easy or intuitive!
- Use a collaborative editor
- Find sample questions online
- Get tips from books, blogs, your peers
- **Do mock interviews**
- Question might be vague: ask!
- Talk through your solutions
  - show your thought process
  - solution doesn't have to be "the" answer
  - highlight trade-offs and issues with performance, security, robustness, usability, portability, scalability, libraries, etc.
- For each one: people, project, current news



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# Interview – get ready



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# You are the interviewer too!

- Evaluate the organization as much as they are evaluating you
  - Gauge culture through lunches and any informal conversations
  - Can you see yourself working there?
  - Get information you need to make a decision if you get an offer
- Think through timelines and be flexible
- Prepare to negotiate



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# The interview (preparation)

- Call or email alumni @ that company
- Do a mock interview, practice
- Do search about that company & its products & services in the news, twitter, blogs, annual report
- Prepare for technical questions:
  - String manipulation
  - Memory management
  - Algorithm optimization
  - Research, methodology, design
- Prepare for Behavioral questions:
  - “Tell me about a time when...”
  - Situation – Brief, lowest importance
  - Scenario- Medium importance
  - Behavior – Detailed, high importance
  - Outcome – Accomplishments, what you learned, what to do differently
- Never turn down a reasonable opportunity to interview
- Many companies have interview prep material online
- Have a list of questions



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# The interview (during)

- Be confident, dress professional
- Take your time
- Ask clarifying questions if you're unsure how to answer a question
- Show them you have done your homework
- You are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you, have questions prepared
- Ask “Is there anything that makes you hesitant in hiring me?”, then you can answer and put them at ease



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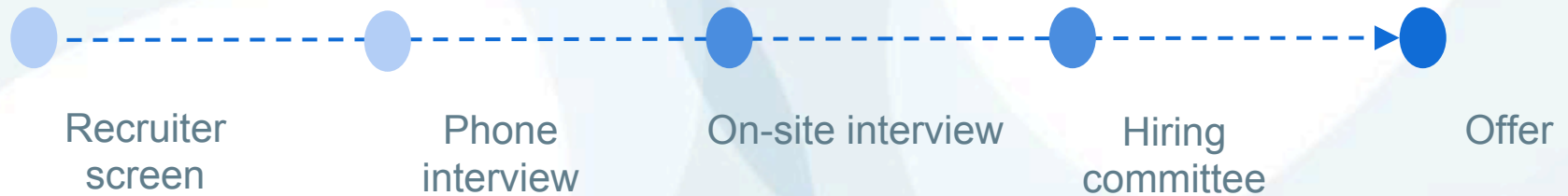
# Hiring Process: Summer Internships



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# Hiring Process: Full-time Jobs



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# The interview (post)

- Send follow-up/thank you letters/emails
- Stay in touch with your recruiter
- Negotiate your job offer



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# Negotiating a job offer

- By not negotiating a first salary, an individual stands to lose more than \$500,000 by age 60.
  - Men are more than four times as likely as women to negotiate a first salary.
- You can negotiate for things other than salary
  - Stock grants, vacation time, job description, etc.
- Know what you are worth
  - Don't discount experience
  - Research online
  - Talk to peers and mentors
- Know how much you are willing to compromise
- Use other job offers as leverage



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**You have a job! Wooahoo!**



# Career Growth

- Understand job level expectations
- Define clear goals and set expectations for performance
- Proactively meet regularly and make team and manager aware of progress and performance
- Actively participate in meetings (and sit at the table)
- Balance between being nice and making a point
- Be visible to your manager's manager
- Take on stretch projects to grow visibility and capabilities
- Meet other people in the company over lunch/coffee, job shadows
- Find or ask for a mentor (formal or informal)



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# Career Growth: Advancement

- Be pro-active about your career plans (you can change your mind any time)
- Ask for frequent, actionable feedback (from manager, peers)
- Talk to folks at the next level about what is expected and how you can narrow the gap
- Work with your advocates to build a case for promotion before the decision window opens
- Find a sponsor



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# Resources

*The Google Resume: How to Prepare for a Career and Land a Job at Apple, Microsoft, Google, or any Top Tech Company*  
by Gayle Laakmann McDowell

*Cracking the Coding Interview*  
by Gayle Laakmann McDowell

askamanager.org  
glassdoor.com

185 powerful verbs, TIME.com  
<http://time.com/3648812/verbs-resume-awesome>



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