



Stay on Top of Your Game: Practical Career Advice

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Overview

- **What do you want out of a game career?**
- **Networking**
- **Research**
- **Internships**
- **HR Departments**
- **Recruiters**
- **Resumes**
- **Interviews**
- **Evaluating and Preparing for Opportunities**

What do you want out of a game career?

- Do you play a lot of games? What kind?
- What type of game career interests you the most?
- Do you understand the many types of game careers?
- Do you have natural aptitudes or talents?
- Are you willing to learn and take direction?
- Are you a team player? Do you take initiative?
- Are you willing to be flexible and change your mind about your career path?
- Do you have a game plan?

Networking

- Create a personal business card
- Meet like-minded individuals
 - Explore and develop ideas together Join associations and societies
 - Hone your networking skills
- Attend conferences and events
 - Meet as many people as you can!
- Proactively connect people with each other
 - Power of 3rd party endorsement
- Volunteerism
 - Help out and meet contacts at the same time
- Combat nervousness with practice

Research

- Read and research constantly
 - Learn about the people and products
- Meet people working at that company
 - Ask about company culture
- Find out how leaders communicate
 - How is work delegated to staff?
- Develop mentor relationships
 - Utilize mentor's knowledge/expertise
 - Most game pros are approachable

Internships

- *Identify all available internships*
- *Establish application process and contact*
- *Play their games before you apply*
- *Be patient and persistent*
- *Be prepared to do whatever you're asked*
- *Be resourceful and a problem-solver*
- *Be willing to be paid little to nothing*

*You will learn on the job, make great contacts,
and have a legit resume credit!!*



Human Resources Departments



- Understand company's recruitment and hiring process
- Identify key HR/Recruitment people
- Avoid sending in your resume blindly
- Size of company dictates HR function

Help make the HR job easier! Be patient and persistent, and always pleasant



External Recruiting Firms



- Always have a multitude of clients
- Their fee is paid by employer, not you
- Often working with hiring managers
- Can give great advice on your resume, portfolio, demo and more.
- Tend to work with experienced talent

Talk to a variety of recruiting firms and send in your updated resume



A Great Resume

- Gets attention
- Easy to view
- Use bullets, avoid paragraphs
- Long as it needs to be
- Proofread for spelling and grammar
- Leave off non-essential experience
- Do include school projects, self-developed game, freelance work
- Put education last, not first
- When in doubt, consult a pro

Interviewing – Their View

- ❑ Are you qualified for the role applying for?
- ❑ If not fully qualified, could you be trained?
- ❑ What is your work style/work ethic?
- ❑ Are you a team player? Or an individual contributor?
- ❑ Will you take direction and criticism?
- ❑ Do you know and understand their product?
- ❑ Do you pass the “technical interview,” before advancing to the “cultural interview?”
- ❑ Do you “fit” with the company culture?

Interviewing – Your View

- Identify most important features of the opportunity
Are 3 of the these features right for you?
 - The product
 - The team
 - The compensation
 - The geographic location
 - The opportunity to advance
- Will you gain new skills and new contacts?
- Does “vibe” of the environment feel right?
- Can you make the commitment they want?

The Interview

- Dressing for the Interview
 - Look sharp, dress for company culture
- Questions in the Interview
 - Come with questions about your goals
- Gather Intelligence, Be Prepared
 - Play their games, know their company
- Pay Attention to Company Culture
 - Tune into cues, react accordingly
- Be honest about what you don't know

Evaluation and Preparation

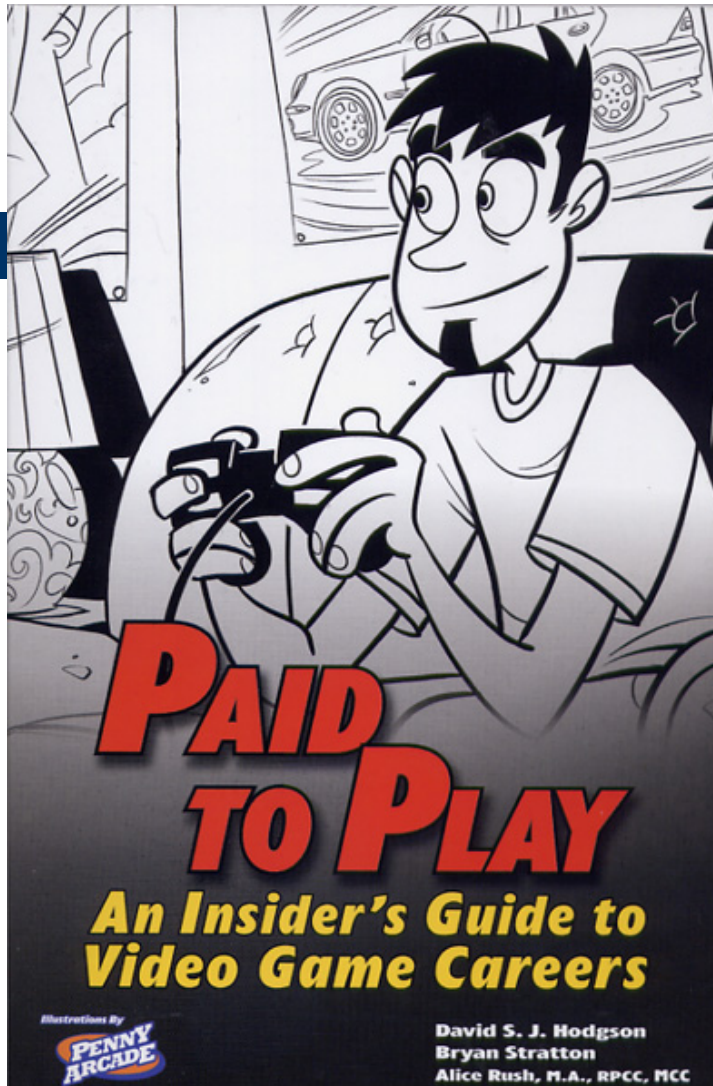


Be sure to understand...

- Projects
- Salary
- Title
- Benefits
- Work Environment
- Relocation
- Flexibility
- Peers and Bosses

You will need...

- Resume
- List of Projects
- Demo, Portfolio
- References
- Interview prep
- Commitment
- Follow-through



BUY THIS BOOK!

- 100 industry pros interviewed
- Published by Prima Games
- Check web site for stores or order online
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THANKS!!

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