SIfA EMCR Workshop

Google Australia - Edwin Tay
- Keep (note taking app)
- started work before release, before finishing uni
- Work on big, hard things, but good support
- People challenge us, but still supportive.

  "the myth of the genius programmer"
  └ film.

  No need for requisite CS or SE degree.

  10-15% non-comp sci degrees @ google.

Freelancer David Harrison
Labour market place
- world wide
- data entry, quantum mech, accounting...
- big website
  ⇒ very fast release of new features

Highly technical people
Lots of data analysis → quality of service
(sounds hectic)
Large scale 1,000-10,000s of hits/second

Optiver Kim Apted
Software developer C++, C#, go, Python
Trading firm
- Market maker
- Allow many participants to the market
- Offices in Sydney, Amsterdam, etc
Reqit for
- It and for trading
  └ lots of Math/analysis (research)
  └ Software development and IT admin (mostly CS/SE)

Company
- 20 years, still young & agile
- established, growing, profitable
- posh office
- cool people to work with

IMOS eMarine Infrastructure Marten Hidas
Background
- Astronomer, PhD, Postdoc
- year off
- interest in environment
- data science at IMOS
Company
- NCRIS funded *?*
- sustained observing of the marine environment
- imos.aodn.....
- data scientist presenting the data portal.
- based in Tas
- flexible employment

Incubate James Alexander
- Computer science honours from USyd.

Start ups
- WhatsApp (FB takeover $19bn!)
- 30 software engineers whose blew away SMS.
Why so many startups?
- Less cost
- more technology
- internet (2020 80% of adults have mobile phone)
Incubate can connect people to startups

MV Planetarium Tanya Hill
- PhD → planetarium (no post-doc)
- Outreach in Astronomy.

Tanya's job is quite unique.

Pannel 1
People
- Tanya Hill
- David Harrison (freelancer)
- Mark Assad (Atlassian)
- Alain Picard (go Catch!)
  "More interested in how to get the answer than what the answer is"
- Sean Farrell (Teradata)

Questions
- How did you take the plunge?
- Do you know people who have left and come back?
  * Possible to come back in different roles/fields.
- How does recruiting work?
  * Graduate program, intern, experienced
    ⌐Quick
    Experienced: interview in values
                 technical interview
                 (problem solving)
                 past experience
  * Every company has a different approach.
- Common mistakes that academics make?
  * Takes a long time to retrain a phd. Looking for pragmatic people. Not prove how smart you are.
- When is it "good" to leave academia?
  * depends on how you present?
  * as you progress, you both know more and less than someone "younger"
- What can a PhD do to make themselves more applicable?
  * breadth: volunteering, jobs, internships.
  * demonstrate some relevant background e.g. software experience.
- How do you present soft skills?
  * make sure CV reflects interaction & communication skills. Also "management" skills — student supervision, team coordinators, grant applications

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Pannel 2
People
- Kim Apted (Optiva)
- James Alexander (Incubate)
- Scott Wales (University of Melb, climate)
- Sonia Cianci (NSW Department of Priemer)
- Matthew Francis (BoM)

Questions
- How did the transition happen?
  * kagle website: runs machine learning competitions
- Are you better off to do PhD or go straight to industry?
  * PhD's can be a fun experience!
  * A very personal decisions. Companies like both!
  * Don't plan your career, look for opportunities.
- How do you do salary negotiations?
  * graduate roles are usually pretty well defined.
  * often determining your level more than salary.
  * difficult to go through a recruiter because the goals are not aligned.

CV
- Describe what you have done specific skills/techniques (Paragraph usually)
- Avoid lots of detail
- Show that you can think outside the box
  * specific problems, with key results
- Look at the description, pick out key words, put them on your CV
- Think of verbs to describe you
- Very specific technical skills
- Highlight key words.
- No personal details

Social Profiles can lead to jobs being created for you
Show that you are an interesting
Ask for feedback, maintain links with people
    ⌐even if no interview especially for government