

Job Search Strategy Plan

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Purpose. This plan documents my current strategy for transitioning from product/UX design into software engineering, strengthening my technical foundation, and securing a Summer 2027 software engineering internship. I will revisit and update the plan as my goals, target roles, and opportunities evolve.

1. Career Goals (SMART)

Secure a Summer 2027 Software Engineering Internship: By May 2027, secure a Summer 2027 SWE internship focused on backend, cloud, distributed systems, or AI-enabled products. From September 2026 through January 2027, apply consistently to well-matched roles each week, track applications and follow-ups, and tailor my resume when a role strongly matches my experience.

Build Interview-Ready Technical Skills: By January 31, 2027, complete a structured algorithms and data structures interview-preparation plan, practice coding problems at least four days per week, and complete regular timed mock interviews so I can explain solutions clearly and confidently under interview conditions.

Strengthen My Software Engineering Portfolio: By December 15, 2026, polish at least two technical projects for recruiting by improving documentation, architecture explanations, tests, and GitHub presentation. I will be prepared to discuss design decisions, trade-offs, debugging, and measurable results for each project.

Expand My Professional Network: From September 2026 through May 2027, attend at least two career or technical networking opportunities per month and have at least three meaningful professional conversations each month with engineers, recruiters, alumni, or peers. I will follow up with relevant contacts within 48 hours.

2. Experience, Skills, and Strengths

Top Skills

- **Software Engineering / Backend Development:** Built Java/Spring Boot systems and developed backend-oriented projects that required API design, testing, concurrency, and system behavior reasoning.
- **Distributed Systems and Cloud Computing:** Built and benchmarked a replicated key-value store with leader-follower and Dynamo-style quorum replication, deployed a 10-node cluster on AWS EC2 with Terraform, and evaluated latency/consistency trade-offs.
- **AI Agents and Applied AI:** Built an AI-powered interview-preparation application using RAG, multi-agent workflows, structured LLM outputs, retries, and fault-tolerant parsing.
- **Product and UX Design:** Brings 5+ years of experience translating user needs into product flows, prototypes, design systems, and shipped experiences across web, mobile, and connected-device products.
- **Cross-Functional Collaboration:** Worked closely with engineering, product, content, and business stakeholders across Comcast/Xfinity, Designity, Dabbers, Slang.AI, and other teams.

Top Strengths

- **Human-Centered Problem Solving:** My design background helps me begin with user needs and then connect those needs to practical technical decisions. This is especially useful when building products that need both good engineering and a clear user experience.
- **Curiosity and Learning Agility:** My interest in what happens behind the interface led me from conversation and product design into computer science. I have continued that transition through graduate coursework in algorithms, distributed systems, and cloud computing and through hands-on engineering projects.
- **Communication:** Years of presenting designs, facilitating workshops, and partnering with cross-functional teams taught me to explain ideas clearly, ask useful questions, and adapt communication for technical and non-technical audiences.
- **Ownership:** I am comfortable taking a problem from ambiguity to a concrete deliverable, whether that means designing a workflow, building a prototype, implementing a software project, or iterating based on results.
- **Empathy and Inclusive Thinking:** My HCI and UX background trained me to consider accessibility, diverse user perspectives, and the impact of product decisions on different groups of people.

3. Target Companies

Company	Why It Interests Me
Google	Strong software engineering culture and opportunities across cloud, AI, infrastructure, and user-facing products. I am interested in roles where I can combine systems thinking with product awareness.
Microsoft	Broad opportunities in Azure, AI, developer tools, and product engineering, with internship programs that offer exposure to large-scale software systems.
Amazon / AWS	Strong fit for my growing interests in cloud infrastructure, distributed systems, backend engineering, and building services at scale.
Meta	Interesting engineering challenges in large-scale systems, infrastructure, AI, and consumer products, with opportunities to work on products used by large and diverse user populations.
NVIDIA	A compelling intersection of AI, systems, infrastructure, and accelerated computing. I am interested in software roles that support modern AI applications and platforms.
Databricks	Strong alignment with distributed systems, cloud platforms, data infrastructure, and technically deep backend engineering.
OpenAI	Highly relevant to my interest in AI products and intelligent systems, especially roles that connect strong software engineering with applied AI experiences.
Anthropic	A strong fit for my interest in AI systems, reliability, and human-centered product thinking, with opportunities to learn in a technically demanding environment.

4. Job Search To-Do List

Priority	Action	What I Will Do	Due Date
1 — High	Finalize recruiting materials	Review and finalize SWE resume, LinkedIn, GitHub profile, and core project descriptions; create one master application tracker.	09/20/2026
2 — High	Launch targeted applications	Build a prioritized list of Summer 2027 SWE internships and begin a consistent application cadence. Tailor materials for especially strong matches.	09/25/2026
3 — High	Create technical interview routine	Set a weekly algorithms/data structures schedule, track problem areas, and begin timed practice plus mock interviews.	09/30/2026
4 — Medium	Prepare behavioral interview stories	Develop 5 STAR stories covering collaboration, conflict, failure/learning, leadership/ownership, and ambiguity; practice concise delivery.	10/10/2026
5 — Medium	Prepare for GHC recruiting and networking	Research target employers attending GHC, prepare a short introduction, identify priority sessions/employer conversations, and organize follow-up notes.	10/20/2026

5. Professional Brand / Professional Introduction

Professional brand: A product-minded software engineer in transition who combines human-centered design experience with growing technical depth in backend systems, cloud computing, distributed systems, and AI.

I started my career in product and UX design, so my path into software engineering has been a little unconventional. One of the experiences that first made me curious about technology was working as a conversation designer at an AI startup, where I designed voice and chatbot experiences. I enjoyed thinking about how people interact with intelligent systems, but I became increasingly curious about what was happening behind the interface - how the system was built, how data moved through it, and how the backend made those experiences possible. That curiosity led me to pursue my M.S. in Computer Science at Northeastern. Since then, I have been strengthening my technical foundation

through algorithms, distributed systems, cloud computing, backend development, and AI projects. I bring a combination of user empathy, product thinking, cross-functional communication, and technical problem solving. I am now looking for a Summer 2027 software engineering internship where I can continue growing technically and build products end to end.

6. Networking Opportunities

- **Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC) 2026** (October 26-30, 2026) - Registered with an academic pass. I plan to attend technical sessions, employer/recruiting opportunities, and networking activities focused on women and underrepresented groups in computing.
- **Northeastern Silicon Valley Career Studio / Employer Networking Events** (Fall 2026-Spring 2027) - Attend employer information sessions, career fairs, and networking programs that connect Silicon Valley campus students with recruiters, alumni, and local technology professionals.
- **AnitaB.org / Women in Tech Community Events** (Fall 2026-Spring 2027) - Participate in community events that extend the GHC network, meet other women in computing, and learn from professionals with different technical and career backgrounds.
- **Bay Area Software Engineering / AI Meetups** (Monthly, beginning Fall 2026) - Attend selected technical meetups in software engineering, cloud, distributed systems, and AI to deepen industry knowledge and build relationships outside the university community.

7. Accountability and Review

I will review this strategy at the end of each month during the recruiting cycle. I will update my target-company list, application priorities, technical-practice goals, and networking calendar based on interview feedback, new opportunities, and what I learn from recruiters, engineers, classmates, and career-development resources.