OYO[1]: PROJECTS LAUNCH GREAT CAREERS

Show passion & creativity – build your skills and career

Why Do Projects?

1. Learn or practice skills | 2. Build experience for your job search | 3. Have fun

Types to Consider

Personal Projects: Independent projects that focus on your own skill development and interests.
Example: Create a personal website

Open Source: Community projects where contributors can view and modify code, resolve bugs, or provide documentation.
Example: Enhance Mozilla Firefox Browser

Hackathons: Events where a group of people get together and develop a project in a short period of time.
Example: HackUMass

Group/Class Projects: Professor-initiated CS projects for groups of students to apply classroom concepts and skills.
Example: High-Altitude Balloon (HAB) Launch

View from 30,000 meters!

On October 22, 2017 a team of UMass students and professors launched two high-altitude balloons. The balloons both reached a maximum altitude of over 18 miles. The project consisted of designing and assembling the payload, planning and executing the launch, tracking and recovering the balloons, and analyzing the data from the flight.

Career Development Tips

- Use projects to offset limited professional experience, proving the quality of your work while also demonstrating initiative and passion
- Add projects as a main section on your resume, LinkedIn, and Handshake profiles
- Market your projects, giving them a memorable name and describing your goal, actions, and results – the application of skills to real world challenges is valuable

Recommended Resources

MindSumo: A marketplace that connects companies & students through online projects called "challenges", which offer cash prizes and opportunities to stand out to employers
Open Hatch: A non-profit dedicated to matching prospective free software contributors with communities, tools, and education

Check out our GitHub Info Sheet to learn more!

[1] On-your-own "OYO" resources help you begin to find answers to your questions now.

For more information or other career-related questions, contact our **CICS Careers** team.

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