FROM HACKATHON TO HIRE: A WEB3 CAREER GUIDE

Table of Content

Introduction

Are you a Web3 enthusiast seeking an exhilarating and challenging experience to showcase your skills, explore new technologies, and get hired but you don't know how to go about it? Look no further, this Web3 career guide is a must-read.

According to a 2022 UN BIG Data report, 35% of respondents said they had been hired after attending a hackathon in the past year. This is a significant increase from the 20% reported in the previous year's survey.

The same survey also found that the most common roles that hackathon participants were hired for were software engineer, blockchain developer, and product manager. The most common way that the skilled and talented were hired after a hackathon was through a direct offer from a recruiter or company representative.

Hackathons have become an integral part of the tech industry, providing innovators with an exciting opportunity to showcase their skills, collaborate with like-minded individuals, and bring innovative ideas to life. However, participating in a hackathon can be a challenging and competitive experience.

In this guide, we will explore the essential strategies and insights that will help you maximize hackathons to advance your Web3 career.

Understanding Hackathons

A hackathon is an event set up by a company or an organization that wants to get a high-quality solution through collaboration between experts. These experts can be software developers, designers, project managers, etc. The hackathon format is often competitive.

For example, a platform like techFiesta hosts a hackathon and wants to reward the best hacker with an innovation that solves a problem. The company hosting the hackathon chooses the best projects and hands out the prize. After the event, the organization may choose to sign a contract with all the winning teams, and innovative projects also stand a chance to get grants. Many tech companies monitor hackathon activities and buy products or choose new team members on the spot.

Participating in a hackathon can be a game-changer for your Web3 career journey. It's a hands-on experience that goes beyond traditional learning, allowing you to apply your knowledge in a dynamic setting. The collaborative nature of hackathons fosters networking, idea exchange, and skill enhancement, making them an excellent platform to kickstart your path in the evolving Web3 world. If you want more explanation about why hackathons are so instrumental in shaping your Web3 career, get all the details from our previous guide here.

Choosing the Right Hackathons for Your Web3 Career

Hackathons are a great way to learn new skills, meet new people, and build something amazing. But with so many hackathons to choose from, it can be tough to know where to start your Web3 career. Different hackathons cater to different objectives and offer unique experiences to participants.

TYPES OF HACKATHONS

Internal hackathons: These hackathons are organized by companies for their employees. The goal of these hackathons is to generate fresh thinking, team building, and intrapreneurship, and increase employee engagement and retention.

An example is <u>Google's Code Jam</u> which was recently stopped after nearly 20 years of coding competition, is the longest-running global coding competition, where programmers of all levels put their skills to the test. Competitors work their way through a series of online algorithmic puzzles to earn a spot at the World Finals, all for a chance to win the championship title and $15000.

External hackathons: These hackathons are open to the public. They are typically organized by universities, tech companies, or non-profit organizations. The goal of these hackathons is to bring together people from different backgrounds to collaborate on new ideas.

Examples include; <u>techFiesta</u>, a developer activation platform where companies launch hackathons and developer challenges. The developer events are designed to provide an engaging and rewarding experience for developers of all levels, as well as professionals from other fields who are interested in technology. Protocols that host developer events on techFiesta have the opportunity to work with a diverse and talented group of developers, harnessing their fresh and inventive ideas to fuel growth and success in their businesses.

How To Find The Right Web3 Focused Hackathon

In the quest for the perfect Web3 hackathon, here's a guide to help you navigate and find the one that suits you best.

- Use search engines: You can use search engines like Google to find upcoming Web3 hackathons. Some popular hackathon organizers include; techFiesta, Gitcoin, ETHGlobal, Devpost, HackerRank, and Solana Hacker House. These platforms not only provide event details but also offer insights into the specific technologies or themes covered.

- Follow Web3 communities: Joining tech communities on platforms like Discord or Reddit can also unveil hidden gems in the form of upcoming Web3 hackathons. Joining Web3 communities on social media platforms like Twitter and Discord can help you stay up-to-date on upcoming hackathons. You can also connect with other Web3 developers and potentially find team members for the hackathon.

- Industry Conferences and Meetups: Attend conferences related to blockchain, cryptocurrency, or Web3. These events are fertile ground for discovering upcoming hackathons and connecting with professionals in the field. Hackathons can have different themes or tracks, such as NFTs, DeFi, GamiFi, Metaverse, or DAOs. Consider your interests and skills when choosing a hackathon to participate in.

- Check out hackathon directories: There are several directories that list upcoming hackathons, including those focused on Web3. Some examples include Alchemy and Harendra Shakya's Blog.

- University and Local Events: Check with your university or local tech organizations. They often host hackathons or can guide you to nearby events. Participating in local hackathons can be a great way to build connections within your community.

Pre-Hackathon Guide: Positioning Yourself for Career Success

Once you've found and chosen the hackathon, the next step is preparing for it. This is the moment you will gather all the information about the hackathon, and learn more about the challenges proposed. The following activities can help you prepare for a successful hackathon.

Researching Prizes and Criteria

Before the hackathon, it's crucial to research the prizes and criteria set by the organizers. Understanding the requirements and judging criteria will help you focus your efforts on what needs to be implemented in your project. By aligning your project with the criteria, you increase your chances of winning prizes and gaining recognition for your work.

Participating in Pre-Hackathon Events and Workshops

Taking part in pre-hackathon events, workshops, and discussions demonstrates your commitment to the hackathon and allows you to acquire valuable knowledge. These events often provide insights into the hackathon theme, industry trends, and best practices.

Start Forming a Team

In a hackathon competition, the importance of building a good team cannot be overstated. We go more in-depth on this topic in our "Hackathon Guide: How To Choose The Right Teams" article. Joining communication channels for developers will also be publicly available by this time. For instance, techFiesta has a Telegram and Discord channel which presents a fantastic opportunity to mingle with participants and find other teammates based on their skills and expertise! There are other ways you can find a team, too. Look into your network of colleagues, friends, and peers on social media like Twitter, LinkedIn, and GitHub.

Preparing Pitch Materials in Advance

During a hackathon, time is limited, and every minute counts. To optimize your time and ensure a well-structured presentation, prepare some materials, such as a pitch deck, in advance. Having a pre-designed presentation template or slides ready will save valuable time during the hackathon. This way, you can focus on refining your pitch content and practising its delivery.

Familiarizing Yourself with Communication Tools

Hackathons often utilize specific communication platforms for team collaboration and coordination. Before the event, take the time to familiarize yourself with these tools. Understanding their features and functionalities will enable efficient communication with your team members. Being well-versed in the communication tools will help streamline discussions, file sharing, and decision-making processes during the hackathon.

Prioritizing Rest and Well-Being

Hackathons can be intense and demanding, often involving long hours of work and limited sleep. To maintain your focus and productivity, it's crucial to prioritize rest and well-being before the event. Get sufficient sleep in the days leading up to the hackathon, ensuring you start the event with a fresh and alert mind. Taking short breaks and staying hydrated during the event will also contribute to your overall well-being.

Engaging with Participants and Tech Providers

Participate in online forums, social media groups, or community platforms related to the hackathon. Engaging in discussions and networking with other participants and tech providers can expand your knowledge, provide different perspectives, and potentially lead to fruitful collaborations.

Post Hackathon Guide: Crafting a Web3-Focused Resume

Your resume serves as the first impression on potential employers, it is essential to tailor it specifically for the Web3 industry. Here are steps to help you achieve this;

Highlight Hackathon Achievements

So far, we have proven that a hackathon is an opportunity to showcase your problem-solving capabilities. When highlighting hackathon achievements on your resume, be specific about the challenges you tackled, the technologies you used, and the outcomes you achieved. Quantify your impact whenever possible, whether through lines of code, project scope, or positive feedback received.

For example:

Hackathon XYZ (Month, Year): Developed a decentralized voting application using blockchain technology, reducing processing time by 30%.

Tailor the Resume for Web3 Roles

Generic resumes won't cut it in the competitive Web3 job market. Tailor your resume for specific Web3 roles by aligning your skills and experiences with the job requirements. Use keywords relevant to the position, ensuring your resume passes through applicant tracking systems (ATS) that many companies utilize.

For example:

- Skills Section: Highlight proficiency in blockchain development languages (Solidity, Rust), smart contract development, and experience with decentralized applications (DApps).
- Experience Section: Showcase projects and experiences directly related to Web3 technologies, emphasizing your contributions and impact.
- Education Section: If applicable, mention any specialized courses or certifications related to blockchain and decentralized technologies.

How to Ace your Web3 Job Interview

Preparing for a Web3 job interview goes beyond showcasing technical skills. It involves understanding the intricacies of the blockchain and decentralized technology space while effectively communicating your experiences gained from hackathons and other relevant projects. Here are some insights to help you nail it.

Common Web3 Interview Questions and How to Answer Them

- What motivated you to pursue a career in Web3?

Demonstrate your passion for the industry by sharing personal experiences, such as influential projects or technological breakthroughs.

- Explain blockchain to a non-technical person.

Tailor your explanation to have less technical terms, emphasizing the concept of decentralization and trustlessness.

- Describe a challenging problem you encountered in a hackathon and how you solved it.

Use the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result) to provide a structured and comprehensive response.

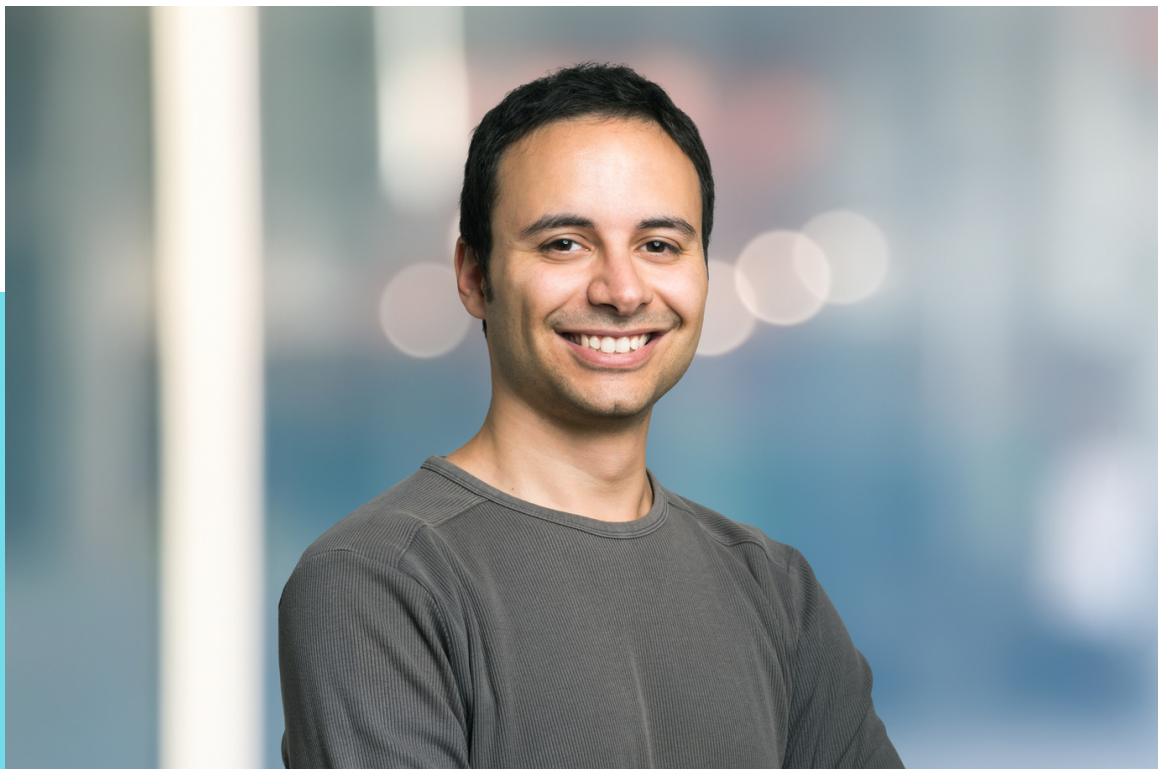- How do smart contracts work, and what role do they play in Web3 development?

Showcase your understanding of smart contracts, their applications, and the impact they have on decentralized systems.

- How do you stay updated on the latest trends and developments in the Web3 space?

Discuss your commitment to continuous learning, mentioning specific sources, forums, or communities you engage with.

Emphasize Your Hackathon Experiences

- Share instances where collaboration and innovation played a crucial role in your hackathon projects. Discuss how diverse perspectives contributed to the success of your team.

- Use examples from hackathons to illustrate your ability to think critically and solve complex problems. Discuss the challenges you faced and the creative solutions you implemented.

- Discuss how hackathons taught you to adapt quickly to new technologies or frameworks, emphasizing your ability to thrive in the fast-paced environment of Web3 development.

- Draw connections between your hackathon projects and real-world applications within the Web3 industry. Discuss the relevance of your work to current industry trends.

- Reflect on the lessons learned from hackathon experiences and how they have shaped your approach to problem-solving and collaboration.

Conclusion

As you explore hackathons, envision them not just as events but as opportunities to ignite your passion, test your abilities, and launch yourself into the ever-evolving landscape of Web3. With these strategies we have shared in this guide, you can be sure to go from hackathon to hire in the Web3 space.

Are you a developer who is ready to get into the web3 space, put your skills to the test, and collaborate with like-minded innovators, look no further than techFiesta.

techFiesta is EkoLance's developer activation platform where companies launch hackathons and developer challenges. Our hackathons and developer challenges are designed to provide an engaging and collaborative experience for developers of all levels, as well as professionals from other fields who are interested in technology.

When you participate in these developer events, you earn prizes, get grant opportunities, and stand a chance to be a part of the sponsors ecosystem.

You can watch our video guides on how to win a hackathon, these series featured several international hackathon winners who shared their insights and best practices to help you stay ahead of the curve. Click on the links below to get started now!

How to Win a Hackathon (First Edition)
How to Win a Hackathon (Second Edition) From Hackathon to Successful Startup

Within 3 months of launching techFiesta, we have organized over 13 developer events with top blockchain protocols, 65+ projects have been built and over $70K has been paid in bounties.

To register for the ongoing techFiestas (hackathons and developer challenges), click here and start hacking.

Lastly, we are committed to helping you grow in your career journeys, which is why we always launch our monthly guides. We understand that the blockchain industry is rapidly growing and constantly evolving, which can make it challenging for you to stay up-to-date with the latest trends and best practices. These monthly guides are designed to provide valuable information that will help you enhance your skills, find new opportunities, and achieve your career goals. Click on the links below to download other guides we have written from January to September.

Guide 1 -
https://www.ekolance.io/startacareerinblockchainguide
Guide 2 -
https://www.ekolance.io/improveproductivityatworkwithchatgpt
Guide 3 -
https://www.ekolance.io/web3skillsforjobhuntinginbearmarket

Guide 4 -
https://www.ekolance.io/freelancecareerinweb3
Guide 5 -
https://www.ekolance.io/ai-tools-for-developers
Guide 6 -
https://www.ekolance.io/participate-in-hackathons
Guide 7 -
https://www.ekolance.io/july-2023-guide-prepare-for-the-upcoming-bull-market
Guide 8 -
https://www.ekolance.io/linkedin-for-web3-professionals
Guide 9 -
https://www.ekolance.io/web3-jobs
Guide 10 -
https://www.ekolance.io/october-23-guide-on-web3-career

For updates about our training and other important developments within EkoLance, follow us on our social handles below.

LinkedIn: EkoLance
Twitter: EkoLance
Instagram: EkoLance
Facebook: EkoLance