Hiking the Career Trail

Speaker 1 00:04

Is there a way to transition into tech without abandoning your values? And if so, how does your non tech background still make you a sought after candidate, whether you're a teacher who's passionate about building new software for improving reading skills, or a psychologist who wants to build an app, connecting patients with therapists, tickets opportunities for everyone, when you're looking for a way to build a meaningful career, it's about transitioning your skills, not replacing them. We just had to talk to someone who did just that. Hi, my name is Will Newsom, and you're listening to tech start. In this show, we explore the realities of changing careers and getting into tech. Our guest today is a TripleTen graduate Jake McCamley. And he managed to break into tech without getting too far away from the two things he loves most living in the mountains and helping people find their peace.

Speaker 2 01:02

Yeah, my past career has really nothing to do with software engineering, it was kind of a late pivot. Right after the pandemic, I studied psychology in university in the United States. And when I finished up school, I went to work out in Utah for a company that practice wilderness therapy. So I was working alongside therapists who would come out to the woods once a week and enact therapy for kids who are dealing with things that traditional therapy might have left them behind for so you know, people who were sent there by their parents, because they just needed some like extra special container to be to be helped. And so that meant that we were hiking, we are creating fire with sticks. We were setting up tarps in the woods, we were just shovelling out snow to make a place to dig a fire pit like it was we're just kind of like living outdoors. And that ended up being the great therapeutic realm for a lot of people. And that was like a really fulfilling thing for me, I really feeling career, but it was definitely like, not a long term career for me. And those are just like one container that I worked in, in a therapeutic realm. And then there's another one, I worked at a therapeutic ranch in Vermont more recently. And that was for about four months, but very similar, rather than like surviving in the woods, we're doing ranch work. So we're herding cattle, we're, you know, tending to a garden, we're chopping out of wood and processing it for fire and all the while making the therapists doing therapy groups and stuff like that.

Speaker 1 02:12

What attracted you to that line of work, I guess therapy, that therapy niche?

Speaker 2 02:17

Maybe like disenchantment with what I thought a regular crew would be when I was growing up. And when I was in college, like I didn't want to work in, it's funny to say now like, I didn't want to work in an office, just do something that felt like you know, a capital J job. Like, I wanted to, like work with people and really get down to the roots of what it meant to be like a human being. And that felt, it still does, like feels like really important to me, just really getting to know people and really helping them work on things that go way, way back in their life. For sure. Personally, I had some I have my own history of mental health as well. And so I wanted to, you know, I got a lot of hope growing up and I'm like, very, I have the resources to get that help when I'm younger, and a lot of people don't. And so it was like how

can I split this and turn on help people or from an academic sense in school, go and put what I learned to good use helping people in the woods or helping people on a ranch.

Speaker 1 03:02
How did the quarantine affects your life while being a therapist? Not like not licenced, but yeah.

Speaker 2 03:09
I feel like we all we all had our own mental health journey through the pandemic, for sure, for one reason or another, like bare minimum of or just like locked in our house, we probably need to see a therapist for sure. So I actually I wasn't working in therapy, or like the mental health realm. At that point of the pandemic, I was working for a company. It's called the Appalachian Mountain Club. It's a conservation organisation up here in New Hampshire. And they do a number of different things up here in the mountains and across the Northeast. But one place I was working at, they're called the high mountain huts. And it's a series of huts that dot the White Mountains, like high elevation places where in the summertime, you can hike up to those huts and there's a crew of people who hike up supplies to those huts and they'll cook your meal. You can stay in the bed there when you wake up the next morning will cook you breakfast anywhere from like 36 people saying one night to like 100 people at the bigger huts. I've been working with these since 2017 kind of on and off. Like that ranch that I worked on the therapeutic ranch took place in one winter in between different seasons in the huts. But in 2020 I was working as a caretaker in the huts. And during the caretaking season, there's just one person working in the huts and people can come and stay but like no one's cooking your meals. It's like very much like a skeleton crew fall or operation. It's very cold up here. There's like six feet of snow outside gets down to like zero degrees at night. And so people come in just like looking for shelter out the woods. And when the pandemic Raider reared its ugly head we locked all the doors we said nobody's saying any nights if anybody touches surface here, we're all going to spread the virus like we didn't really know how the virus worked. So in 2020 we locked everything down instead of like working very closely with people to like cook meals and keep them warm and get to know people travelling all over the world. It was like now I live in this cabin that is locked to the outdoors for like two months on end which from a pandemic sense was great but from like a I can do this for the rest of my life. This is great for my mental health stuck. It was like pretty hard to do. Like I said, it looks like I would say it was really good. Count my lucky stars for that every single day. But certainly it was I was kind of bouncing back and forth between like seasonal therapy work and seasonal hospitality work. And at that point, once that all shut down, it seemed like this is not meant for me long term like this. I think there's there's a timeline and this is not the most sustainable career. And so that's what I really pivoted.

Speaker 1 05:12
Did you have like any coding experience like previous to like, TripleTen?

Speaker 2 05:18
A little bit like you've done? I think it's like Code Academy. Yeah, like some of those, like, learn how to code kind of free. Here's a free tutorial, and watch them like YouTube videos. But I feel like my coding experience had never gone beyond like loops, or if statements, it was always like, got me up into the point where I could like, understand the syntax of language, but I didn't know what to do with it. Like, No, I never made a webpage. I never made an app or anything like that. But you know, I took because

I'm so I'm so short. I did take a a coding class in high school, where we, we learned how to build some small little applets with Ruby, but that was so far back that I don't remember anything about that. So I would say like, yeah, I have, like some coding experience, but more just like a knack for tinkering and figuring things out. And I spent a lot of time on the computer. And so like, it felt like a very natural place to be okay.

Speaker 1 06:01
That's interesting. I mean, you Why study programming? I mean, you seem to be like, very good at like interpersonal communication. And like, when you look at like the typical, I guess, maybe my maybe stereotypical stereotypical offer engineer they're not good at like the soft skills.

Speaker 2 06:16
Totally. Yeah, I do feel lucky that I like have that history, working in a place where like, we learn how to talk to people, we learn how to have hard conversations, to then bring those skills to the software world has been really nice, I guess. Yeah. Why would I pivot from something where I can like be boots on the ground, having great conversation with people to a place where I'm stuck on a screen all day, gosh, I asked myself that every day. It's a great job, I love it. And I work I work in a really small teams like I get to still have those conversations. I think it's a it's like a misnomer that coding is like such a, we've worked with ones and zeros. It's a very binary objective job. Like, there are a lot of soft skills that go into the day to day work. There's a lot of meeting with people and figuring out problems. And working with humans, whether it's interviewing customers to figure out what they actually want in an app, whether it's talking with your team, figuring out what they need, in a piece of work, or whether it's like working with a teammate to like talk each other down from some stressful situation that we just went through as a company. Like there's a lot of there's a lot of the soft skills that come in hand in hand. And so it's I really liked the do like the binary aspect of the work. Like when someone needs something to work, it's it's nice to build a button that when you click it, it does it. It's like very clear objectives. That's nice, it's peaceful, it doesn't really feel like a stressful thing to take on. But I still do get that the opportunities to like hone those skills, those soft skills and practice talking to people.

Speaker 1 07:31
Do you wish you would have broken the tech sooner than you did?

Speaker 2 07:36
I don't think so. I think um, I think a lot of like, another thing that I took from the pandemic was like, when I was standing outside of that head thinking like, what am I going to do, and it wasn't necessarily like, this is so bad, I need to figure out something that works. It was really nice. It was like, I've gotten what I need from this line of work. I think I'm ready to move on to something else. It was really nice closure. And yeah, it wasn't with like tail between my legs that I won't move into another career was sort of like head held high. This feels like it's time to move on. And you know, I had these like bucket of skills that I can take a bucket of experiences that I can go talk to people and share with. And so the community up here of just wonderful people who worked in the same line of work that I still spend time with every single day, I still live like at the foot of some mountains, and I could still hike. And so it's that doesn't necessarily like certainly its career pivot. But as far as like lifestyle goes, it feels like just kind of adding and adding and adding.

Speaker 1 08:22
You still get the best of both worlds.

Speaker 2 08:24
Exactly. Yeah. I'm a lucky guy, I think.

Speaker 1 08:27
You mentioned a community. A lot of people nowadays go to college for like the network or the community compare, like your college experience with the bootcamp experience with TripleTen.

Speaker 2 08:37
Whoo, whoa, I don't know if I thought much about that. I feel like my bootcamp experience had a lot more, this is what you're going to do for a job. So practice doing these things, college felt more ethereal way more than soft sciences. Like we're like I study psychology. So being in the soft sciences, it was a lot more of like, let's go and practice research skills. And yes, these are very applicable if you're going to go do research after college. But in terms of like, if you're going to go work in consulting, maybe these skills do translate in kind of a semi direct way. But it felt more of I mean, that's I guess that's what college is for. It's like learning psychology, not necessarily like learning how to flip psychology to work on the job. And so, TripleTen was way more your the things you're going to do on a job like, here's how you're going to talk to your boss in a job. Here's how you're going to like clone a repository for a company that you work for on a job, like all these very direct skills are translated really well. I think it was also nice to know that the people that I worked with the community that I was with and TripleTen. Those people were going to go and do the same line of work until we all had you know, we were brainstorming strategies of like, how we're gonna apply for jobs, how we're going to talk to people, once we started looking for jobs with people, we're all on the same path. So we're all like comparing notes, we're meeting with each other and like making sure we're holding each other accountable. Whereas, you know, in school, I was friends with somebody who was going to become a dirtbag climber. I was friends with somebody who's going to become a banker. I was friends with somebody who was like, going to be a doctor as like we all have very different lines of work and very different, I guess, like passions and motivations. And so college was great and still have a lot of buddies that I still talk To a lot of them, also, like some of those dirtbag climbers have then like, become software engineers too. So like, you know, yeah, college is great in a number of different ways. But then seeing people go from any sort of line of work from college and then come back and then go to a bootcamp and get a job was just I don't know, kind of like funny and inspiring at the same time.

Speaker 1 10:19
I don't know where you started your job, but the job market now and it has been kind of horrendous. Now, can you like describe your approach to finding your job?

Speaker 2 10:28
Totally. Yeah. And yeah, big shout out to everybody looking for a job right now. Because I know it's, it's really tough right now. When I was looking for a job, I guess the fact that six my mind, I think I applied for something like 60 jobs, maybe more. But I remember I like from day one, I had like a big notion

database setup that just had rows and rows and rows of anytime I came across an application that I liked, or like a job prospect or I would say that to notion database. And then I had another similar notion database, just people that were interesting to me, anytime I came across like a friend who is in the industry now or LinkedIn posts with somebody who said something that I liked, like, I'd say them to a person database. And what I did was I spent my weeks applying to probably like 75%, applying to jobs like 25% networking, reaching out to these people, and applying to jobs looked like, you know, doing the blast easy, like, apply via LinkedIn, calling startups and being like, who's doing something cool in the field? And then like, what are their custom application processes, processes, and then wherever I could like writing a personalised cover letter, or Yeah, like reaching out to a CEO, or reaching out to a tech lead, or hiring managers like that, like always got me further in the interview process, then just like a cold email via LinkedIn, so did a lot of that. And with networking, the networking wasn't necessarily like finding a tech lead. And then like putting on a suit and tie and like going to meet them for coffee and like paying for the coffee. And then like validating the parking and it like, it wasn't a big process. It was like very easy, low level marketing. It was like texting a buddy being like, hey, how do you like your new job, or texting a friend and being like, Hey, I know your partner works in this database company. Do you mind if I hop on the phone with them for a bit? And then I did have like a list of questions that I would ask people like, you know, what do you like about what you do? What did you used to do? How did that get you to where you are today? Do you have any advice for somebody kind of like starting up in the company. But it was always like just information gathering was never like, I didn't have like this big spider web plan of like, what was going to come with networking, which I also feel like it's kind of a misnomer about networking is there's no, it's not like five d chess, it's like, you're really just picking people's brains and like trying to see what other people like to do with their line of work. And again, it's just talking to people it's like, really, like, I feel like it's it can be a more approachable process if we talked about it differently. And a lot of networking was like texting friends, that was what I went ahead doing. So yeah, it was a lot of like, cold applications, but also very personalised cover letters, reaching out to CEOs by could and then playing the networking game of just like, talk to somebody if you have any advice of who I should talk to next to those people. Do you have any advice push to talk to you next. And ultimately, it was the more personalised application that did end up getting me a job. And it wasn't just that, I think it was because yeah, it was it was a company that I was passionate about. I really love what we do except care. I think Zenker is doing incredible work. And I felt that from day one, when I first like even if they didn't hire me, I would still say this because this is very aligned with what I was trying to do, which is like make therapy more approachable for everybody.

Speaker 1 13:06
From when you started, like your outreach and really setting forward and finding a job, how long did it take you to land your first interview?

13:12
In the first interview is probably about a month to actually get a job was probably about three months.

Speaker 1 13:17
Okay. Oh, man, that's quick, super quick.

Speaker 2 13:20

Yeah, I was expecting like six months.

Speaker 1 13:22
Nice. And what do you what do you attribute to that? Like, do you think is a personalization? Or do you think is like your will?

13:28
I think like luck and timing, honestly, it's like, I know, I know, like Zencare was looking for a software engineer at that exact moment. And if they weren't, if they like maybe three months down the line, if they'd started looking for somebody, it could have taken me three more months to find that I definitely like bomb some interviews. Didn't even reach out to be like you suck. They just like it was inherent in the code that I wrote for them that they didn't like my code enough. Alright, cool. Moving on. Yeah, definitely had like a lot of speed bumps, some applications just didn't even like no response, no denial, the none there was a market better, but also like zenki I was looking for somebody and I just timed it right.

Speaker 1 14:04
Did location like whether it'd be like remote or an office? It didn't matter to you?

14:08
It did. Yeah, it's definitely leaning more remote at first. And like lucked out. I've been where I live for the past, like five years or so which is great. And I love it up here. Like I said, like I can still hike still the great community up here. So that's great. I was looking for remote. But I do live like I live, you know, eight miles from a very small town. So it's like very rural up here. There's no tech opportunities in the town that I live in. So like it had to be remote, or it was gonna move and the nearest cities that I lived to are like Portland, Maine, or Burlington. So I had in the back of my mind that if I needed to, I would move but at the time, I was really hoping for a moment and I'm glad it worked out.

14:37
Okay. Was it important for you to continue working in like a field related to mental health even though you were transitioning into a different industry?

14:45
Definitely. Yeah, I think there are a number of different things that I look for in the first job but the two industries that I looked at that I wouldn't say it was like heart set on but definitely I spent most of my time looking for was Climate Technology and mental health technology. I have experience in mental health technology and swift Like my story would help me get a job. But then also like, I feel like my story would help me get a job. Because I've asked about those things, I actually think that those are important. I think that Melton mental health and technology pair in a way that just augments both in a great way. And then also climate tech, because climate change is really pressing issue and to kind of work for the good guys was an important prospect for me. And there's important work in mental health and climate tech, just to feel like, you know, taking this big step to pivot from something like I'm deviating from this career that I've kind of set myself up to do, but it's all connected for concurrency of

story, but then also, I guess, for like, what is it like, I don't know, alignment of character to like, be able to go to bed at night and feel like I'm playing for the good guys, you know.

15:37

Did your experience in the mental health industry that doesn't translate into your work now, but you said like the whole premise of you joining us and cares, like they make healthcare more approachable to people, so does like your past work at the ranch and in the wilderness? does it translate some time into your work?

15:52

Definitely does. And I would say less so working with a therapist that we we work with, and less so working with the people who are coming to see therapy, or coming to seek therapy views on care, it's more so team to team person to person on the team like in wilderness, we talk a lot about how to receive feedback. And I receive feedback on a pretty regular basis. I also give feedback on a pretty regular basis via code reviews, or just directly back to somebody else on a call. We also talk a lot about like self expression and self identity via wilderness. And that is also a lot of what we work with just on teams in work, whether it's software engineering, or otherwise, I do think kind of going more back to like the people seeking therapy VSM care, it is nice to build something build a feature, whether it's like a favourite feature that you can now come as ENCOM like favourite, your favourite provider, or if a therapist is like going out of office, and they want to like set up an out of office reminder so that if anybody reaches out to them, they're not just getting like, totally ignored or ghosted by therapists that can get direct feedback of like this person is out of office. So don't send any more messages, building these features. It's nice to put myself back in the shoes of the therapy seeker and be like, Oh, I like this. This actually works. This works for the goals I'm trying to achieve. I'm actually like finding a good therapist easily. So it's nice to use those like soft skills as mental health skills on a day to day basis talk people on the team, but then it's also like we empathise with our customers, because this is what we care about.

Speaker 1 17:11

Are you doing this now? Because you're trying to like I guess scratch the itch of coding, or are you? Do you still love helping people? Or, or just really what motivates you nowadays? Do what you do?

17:23

Yeah, do Am I doing this to like spreadsheets of coding? Or, like, do I see myself at some point, pivoting back to wilderness work, something like that? I don't think so. I think like, I think I'm in this for the long haul. I really like this, I think the like boots on the ground therapy stuff, whether it be wilderness therapy, or ranch therapy was like, flying really close to the sun. Like it was really invigorating work. I was like, I felt like I like learned so much about myself and learn so much about like human beings. But I burnt out so quick, like it was I did two years of wilderness therapy, and I was like, I need to, and then I spent the next six months in the woods alone, like I couldn't do that anymore. So that's, I feel like the software engineering side of things is like, you know, I can wake up and I can keep my sweat pants on. I can like drink some coffee, have a nice chat with we'll go code for a bit, go for a walk outside, it's like, the pace of life is a little bit slower, it's a little less now I'm kind of an introverted person. So it's like I spend a lot more time with myself, the energy is like, way more when I needed to be so I feel like this

matches up really well. So rather than being on the ground doing therapy, it's nice to build software that people on the ground doing therapy can then use to make to make their jobs easier and better and you know, provide better therapy, it's nice to be like the support staff of the people doing that. What motivates me today, yes, so if hiking is like making music, I still you know, hanging out with friends I still like to code in my free time that's that's a fun thing that I'm like still proud that I'm doing is making little apps like fitness lifting running stuff like that is really good. And one thing I love about this job that I have is I can work for two hours go for a walk work for an hour two hours go lift work for another two hours go make dinner work for another two hours go to that something that that is like a very flexible lifestyle which is good whereas when I was doing wilderness therapy it was I was in the woods for eight days and then I was out of the woods for six days there was like we had about 30 minutes of personal free time every day and then it was back to the group stuff which is again great I learned a lot about myself I learned a lot about people but boy was I tired.

19:15

Imagine Jake, pre 2020 living your life and then now your life now what aspects of your life have changed the most what are good and bad?

19:25

I feel like way more rested. I feel like I my body is like put together again. It's not like tired from hiking for work all the time, which is great. My income has probably about tripled if not more, which is great. That's I haven't felt money stress in a really long time. I am able to travel more to go see family outside of like during work hours which is great. I'm able to travel more during work hours because of paid time off my health insurances better. I enjoy what I do. I feel like not only do I not have money stress, which is sort of like looking back but I also have like so many opportunities because of the skills that I now have after learning how to code I can I can work in mental health Like I'm working climate Tech, I can work in health insurance. I can work in oil, I can like, you know, anything picking health insurance and oil are two things that I don't really love, like health insurance or health care things that I do love. So it's both sets of these things. The opportunities are endless, which is great. And so I feel like my quality of life has improved. Yeah.

20:16

I know you said that your past jobs, obviously, we're physically strenuous on your body. Does this new lifestyle bring new stresses?

20:23

Totally. Yeah, I was just think about that, as I was answering that last question of How is my life changed, I think it's working from home is great. But working from home also means that this is like the first job that I don't have built in friends from a job or like built in housing from a job so it's I have to be a lot more intentional about like getting out of I live in a valley we call it Carter Notch I have to get out of the notch is the term that we often throw on here. It's so it's like, it's been five days up here coding with ever, never having leaving the notch. So the community is a lot more intentional, which don't get me wrong, there is community, but it's not from a job. It's from going out and meeting friends to like friends of friends and big events and stuff like that. So that I guess is different. You could call it a stressor, I think. And then there are definitely days where it's hard to get outside because work is just demanding.

It's you know, maybe I underestimate how long something is going to take me and it ends up taking me twice the amount of time that I think it's going to and so I stay up late coding, or I'm not able to go for this hike. You know, my leg hurts right now because I sit down for work and sitting aggravates my leg, which is wild to me an injury from part of it. But that's, you know, I guess it's like two sides of the scale. It's like, you know, just said my quality of life is way improved. And like, My leg hurts. And I have to work to make friends. Like, I'll take that any day.

21:34

Yeah. I will, too. How does your therapeutic background help you deal with like those stresses, like a lot of people, they work remote now, and they definitely don't get outside at all. So they're really depressed and lonely. Anyway, I guess what advice would you give to them to help them deal with that?

21:52

Yeah, definitely get outside, I think be patient too. That's tough advice. Here, somebody will trust me else, which is, I think try to take a step back and look at what's actually causing the stress. If it's like I just said that I underestimated how long someone was going to take me into, I ended up staying late, like, that's not my job force me to stay up late. That's not this new remote work, forcing some unreasonable expectations on myself. Like I get that that's fully me. And so I can recognise that and I can change in the future, I can change my estimations for how long somebody is going to take like, and also realise that if I'm working really late, I'm probably not well rested. Until the next day, when I'm like taking it out on somebody that's just I need to get more sleep or something like that. Like those are all very personal things. But just knowing that it's I think it's easy to like work in a remote setting and like be in one room in front of one screen and lash out at the world. And like there's a lot of things that go into, I guess, causing those stressors and in fixing those stressors. But yeah, I would say stay hydrated, stay active, go outside a lot. Make sure that there's some sort of like outlet for activity. If you work at home, and you're alone, like make sure you have some kind of community eat good food, it's really easy just to snack all day. But make sure that you're like meal planning, cooking good meals on Sunday, and then eating them throughout the week. You know, call your loved ones if you can, because you got that free time at home, PTO doesn't mean that someone's going to tell you when to take time off. Actually take that time off, don't just work 365 days a year, you get a comfortable chair, I would say it's really easy for these office chairs to just be the worst. Don't put in your bedroom as much as possible. It's really easy to just sit in bed and code but gosh, just having like one place it's really hard. Sometimes somebody told me recently about a third place like it's we have our workplaces, our home place fund, the third place that you can go out like whether it's a gym, whether it's a coffee shop, whether it's a library, whether it's a friend's house, just somewhere else to like, totally move on from whatever's going on. Like me and my partner both work from home now. And we have to go to the house now. He's like, have to go to the gym, we have to go whether it's like grocery shopping, or just like driving for event just to like totally shake off the home and work stresses. Okay,

23:42

I've heard about the third places on Twitter, I guess x recently. with like, the MLMs like Chad GPT bar going crazy. On the internet. I know you've heard about it. And I don't think you were still in TripleTen While you were while it was getting big, maybe. But what's your advice for like the constantly changing technologies like, oh, this job is gonna be here in five years. So don't do it. Because AI.

24:08

Yeah, man, so much first advice is use those tools because they're crazy. They're so good. I use them on a day to day basis. And like my work knows that I use them. They helped me iterate on problems. You know, it's not just like, write a function that can do this. And it's telling me what I need to know about structuring this database schema. Tell me this advice is if you're a senior engineer talking to a very junior level engineer who is nervous about asking questions, and then it will like just translate all those things and give me like, great advice. I do that because it's great. The jobs are gonna be here, I you know, I'm no expert in the job market, or like where AI is going. But I can't see my company letting the two main software engineers go because like, chat up exists, like there's still somebody that needs to go into AWS and click all the right buttons and like write the code and work on the CI CD that actually like ships, the code and make sure it's getting to the right container somewhere like maybe one day these AI tools are going to do it like again, I'm not an expert, but I think it's a while down the road. I think it's still worth it to learn Code. I don't think my job is at stake at any point, I think I don't want to, like resist the tools because the tools are so helpful for us. So I would hope that other people like in hopes that they don't take their job aren't keeping them from using the tools themselves, because they're really, really helpful. Yeah.

Speaker 1 25:13
Yeah. Don't Don't resist them. And also don't fear them.

Speaker 2 25:17
Yeah, that's a really good way to put it, for sure. But yeah, I mean, I'm question for you is like, I'm, I'm grateful that I didn't go through TripleTen. When these tools are around, because it's like, kind of had to, like I had to read documents. And I had to like, go and do the things like, how is learning how to code change? Like, how is the pre How is TripleTen changed since Chat GPT has come out?

Speaker 1 25:35
See, I graduated in February, so it was still fairly new. Um, but my fiancee, she's actually in the software engineering cohort. So I can definitely say she loves his job. And it does is good. But it does. Also, like you said, it hinders learning in some way. Because like you said, you won't read his white paper and stuff like that. It's a it's a, it's an easy way out sometimes. But then it makes learning easier. So I picked the double edged sword.

Speaker 2 26:00
Totally, just really good way to put it.

26:04
Has your sense of fulfilment changed over the past years transitioning into this industry?

Speaker 2 26:10
I think I used to identify a lot with my job as my personality, because I did worked a lot of jobs where I lived at work, and my friends were co workers. And my lifestyle was what to do for work like backpacking, I would do that for fun, or living in the wilderness, I would like live with my friends,

because my friends were the people who, when we were all on our days off, we would live in one big house together, which changed recently is that I am a software engineer, and I write software for work. But I'm so much more and able to just disconnect from work in a really nice way that I don't feel like I've been able to do in a long time. So you know, when I when I say that I'm a hiker. And when I say that I'm a runner, I'm not also doing those things for work, I don't feel like I'm just a hiker. Because I do these things for work, I do it because it's fun. What else I was like, that's not to say that like, I don't love my work, and that I don't love who I am as a software engineer, like we opening up an admin dashboard at Zen care. And like seeing how many people use a feature that I built is so cool. Like seeing that. The other day, I was like, I really I rediscovered a feature that we built, it's a way that you can like delete messages that you've sent. It's like such a hidden feature that you really have to work to find it. And I was like I didn't nobody uses this thing. We made it so hard to find. And I went in to see how many people use it and hundreds of people do it, like hundreds of messages have been deleted. And that's really cool to see is like, it's maybe like, because you deleted a message, you're not getting a better therapist, but like at least the software that I like to call better, right? It's like touching lives and changing and like going out there in the world. And like people are interacting with it, which is pretty cool.

27:30
So do you do you feel like it's more meaningful? Like when you see people like I guess, using using your specific parts of the application?

27:38
Gosh, that's tough. I feel like my work is more meaningful now.

27:42
I guess you could you could you can. Yeah, I guess, playing devil's advocate, you can affect more people with software. And you can like be physically

27:48
Right, yeah, that's a battle I'm battling right now. It's like, I feel like I could see directly when I worked in therapy of like, this person is getting this help. Like if I continue to one life for the better? Or if I can be there for somebody in a really hard moment. That's great. Yeah, I feel like I shipped one line of code that then like 1000s of people are using maybe that's quantity over quality? I don't know. It's tough. It's a tough question. Yeah, I guess I will say that, like, I think that my capacity for changing lives is probably increased. I think if I can write good code, that this is a personal project that I worked on, I worked on a voice activated, like chat up wrapper, so you could press a button on your phone speak to chat up and then chat up would speak back to you. And it had like a pre prompt that it would act as like a really helpful phone assistant. And what that was, in my mind that was like, if somebody can't type, they can at least like speak to chat up. And they can still experience the same things. And I couldn't do that from wilderness therapy. I couldn't like build something tailored to somebody who has a disability. But now with software, I can build something that people around the world can use to get a leg up in the world to I can still catch up with all these these cool technologies we're all using. So that technical debt like personal project, not saying that personal projects is changing the world, but potentially I could work on a team that is building things that could change the world, whether that's, you know, some new

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AI model, or just a website that like makes finding the coffee shop or all the cool people in your area are that kind of thing.

What some what some advice for that you have for someone that's thinking about breaking the tech?

Speaker 2 29:12
I love Yeah, I love this question. Because I know a lot of people who are trying to do that right now. I think if you're trying to break into tech, I have advice for people kind of a few steps along the way. For somebody who is thinking about whether or not they should start learning to code or thinking about what is this whole bootcamp thing that they've heard of, I would say give yourself a day. Give yourself two days to go to something like Code Academy or go to something like TripleTen to intro course go to any bootcamp, just try the intro course. If you have fun during the intercourse, whether it's like making a tic tac toe game, whether it's like making a little business card for yourself, if that at all, at some point is like gets like butterflies in your tummy of like this is really fun. I like what I'm doing. Like I could do this forever. Like or if you lose track of time. If you're working on it for like three hours and you think that half an hour goes by. I think that's a strong indicator that you can do that for a living like just that one day. If you have fun doing it that you lose track of time coding at all. That's a good sign that this thing for you. For somebody who is coding and feels like chat, GBT is all over the place, like, my job is going to be gone in a while, it's not not gonna be gone and your job is still gonna be there. There's still millions of people out there writing code, they're still gonna be millions of people out there writing code. In a year when you graduate whenever you're trying to find jobs. For people who are trying to find a job right now the job market sucks, the job market will get good again, probably pretty soon, there will be jobs for you. And for somebody who's like put out 60 job applications, I would say like patience is a virtue, you're doing great. It's like everything you're supposed to be doing is doing these job applications. Like at some point, it'll come to fruition. I think that it's I think luck plays a big part in it. And I do think that we'll have a look at some point.

Speaker 1 30:40
I like to think that right after this interview, Jake went out for a hike because he now has a career that allows him to do that, when that's remote but fulfilling, challenging, but exciting, evolving, but always rooted in his personal values. This podcast was brought to you by libo/libo studio in partnership with TripleTen. New episodes are coming out every Thursday. Stay tuned for next week's story and visit tripleten.com/blog for more career tips.