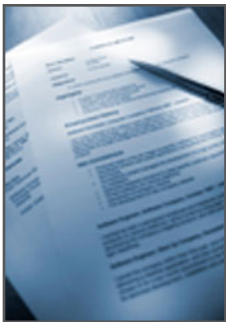




Techie Resumes in a Time of Recession

A recession is a time when opportunities are rare and the job marketplace gets more competitive as more and more people with similar skill sets are fighting it out for the same positions. The question that comes to mind during a recession is, "In times like these, how do I differentiate my resume so that my resume gets short-listed and provides me with interview opportunities?"



Techies should upgrade their skill sets and advertise themselves through multiple forums so that potential employers can learn about them through various means. They should also actively participate in online message boards and try to comment on technical issues that promote them as experts in their fields.

Activate a [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com) profile and start answering more questions relevant to your areas of expertise. In the definitive guide to using LinkedIn for business and career management purposes, "I'm on LinkedIn: Now What?", Jason Alba explains that there are six major benefits to using LinkedIn:

1. The ability to be known and enhance your personal brand
2. The ability to be found by recruiters or other hiring authorities
3. The ability to find others and make important connections
4. The opportunity to learn and share
5. The ability to connect with Ogroup members

6. The opportunity to show you are plugged in to current technology

The resume will provide credentials in the form of message boards/blogs that are publicly available and to which you have contributed effectively.

2008 is predicted to be a year of economic recession, and everybody is searching for security in this uncertain world. Hotjobs recently [listed](http://hotjobs.yahoo.com/career-articles-recession_proof_jobs_in_2008-296) a few jobs that they believe will be recession-proof. Unfortunately, technology does not figure among the recession-proof sectors. Jobs are in employers control and they are exercising their power accordingly.

Don't be pressed too hard to find another good source of income, but do spend valuable time doing your research. You could focus on growth industries and jobs requiring specialized knowledge. You could also consider non-profits and public-sector organizations for opportunities, as they tend to be very open during a downturn.

In addition to all this, you should remember that your resume is a marketing tool and not a bio. Focus on how your subject-matter expertise and results-oriented approach will benefit your future employer. "You need to demonstrate throughout — on your resume, your application, and in your communications with a targeted employer — that you have delivered results on the problem the employer is facing," says Phil Wallner, president of Provident Link, an IT and executive recruiting firm.

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