

Technical/Entrepreneurial Pre-Reading and Resources

In order for our class to run as smoothly and efficiently as possible, we want everyone to be on the same level of proficiency in coding. We would also like you to read up a little about startups—how they are created, what it's like to work in a startup, and how they become big among other things.

Technically, we want you to feel comfortable coding-- as you will spend a great portion of your time doing so. We recommend looking over these tutorials if you think you might need more programming practice. Focus on those topics you are not familiar with. Remember, the best way to become better programmers is to practice.

Entrepreneurially, we have composed a list of the most helpful blogs, websites and books which will help you as you work through all the stages of starting your own company. Although these readings are not required, they will motivate you and bring forward your company. We recommend reading portions from several of the resources each day through the beginning phases of your startup.

Technical Resources

Java Resources:

- Tutorial: <http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/>
- Documentation: <http://docs.oracle.com/javase/6/docs/api/>

Python Resources:

- Good beginning Python book:
<http://www.greenteapress.com/thinkpython/thinkpython.html>
- A book with very simple exercises, great if you're new to Python and just need some help with the syntax: <http://learnpythonthehardway.org/>
- Documentation: <http://www.python.org/doc/>

Other Helpful Resources:

If you're running into a bug, chances are someone has had the same problem. Stack Overflow is one of the best resources for finding solutions to your software bugs. Google your problem, and look for a relevant Stack Overflow link.

Recommended Entrepreneurship Readings

Blogs and News Articles:

From these, you will find inspiration and ways to become and stay connected to the global community of entrepreneurs.

- <http://blakemasters.tumblr.com/peter-thiels-cs183-startup> Great blog that has coursenotes from a class called Startups taught at Stanford University.
- <http://news.ycombinator.com/> Provides real-time news about many startups. Consider reading a couple articles every day.
- <http://www.paulgraham.com/articles.html> Includes a wide variety of helpful articles on startups.
- <http://ycombinator.posterous.com> Provides real-time news about many startups. Consider reading a couple articles every day.
- www.hackernews.com Aspiring and current entrepreneurs discuss their problems and ideas on this site. Hacker news is a great way to get and stay in touch with the world entrepreneurship community. Recent startups such as dropbox posted their links here and obtained a lot of beta testers and lead users here. The site is full of hackers helping one another.
- topblogs.onstartups.com Darmesh Shah, an established entrepreneur in Silicon Valley, has here composed a list of the best startup blogs he knows, ranked daily based on traffic.

Helpful Books and Novels:

Inspiring and personal accounts of successful entrepreneurs and the things they've learned throughout their journeys

- ***Founders at Work: Stories of Startups' Early Days*** by Jessica Livingston. Highly recommended; can be described as filled with pearls of wisdom from mentors afar
- ***Betting it All: The Entrepreneurs of Technology*** by Michael Malone. Details on the lives and dreams of super successful entrepreneurs. Is inspirational on a personal level rather than being a how-to book.
- ***The Art of the Start*** by Guy Kawasaki. A very pragmatic "how-to" style book. Specific sections of it may be quite useful; the book makes a good reference for specific details of entrepreneurship.
- ***Good to Great*** by Jim Collins. Analysis of company cultures and habits that allowed companies to continuously improve. Very useful as a later reading for those interested in continuous improvement.
- ***The Monk and the Riddle*** by Randy Komisar. A personal, detailed, and inspiring account of a successful Silicon Valley entrepreneur.

Helpful Textbooks:

- ***Entrepreneurship: Successfully Launching New Ventures***. A very thorough and detailed guide to the world of entrepreneurship for those interested in a comprehensive overview of the subject.