

I'm Just Sayin

~ Art Koenig



The Dream Resume Cover Letter

Hello,

My name is Duka Partir and I am looking for work in the field of software development. I have attached my resume for your review.

Not listed on the resume, but listed here, are the following additional "skills" that I have:

Business Skills

I know how to code.

I know how to comment my code. Self commenting code is a pipe dream pushed by folks that do not understand what it is to be a maintenance programmer, or to be someone that has to take over the project if I wrap myself around a telephone pole.

I know what a code review is and what it is for. I do not get defensive at a code reviews. I welcome them as Peer Reviews.

I know what a prima-donna is, and I am not one of them. Software has a lot of component parts and there are other manufacturers (team members) that I will have to interface with. If I can't get along with my team members, then that can impact what the company is trying to do.

I know that the company does not exist for

my personal enjoyment, and that I work for the company, not the other way around. Accordingly, I do not expect anybody to send a limo for me at the airport, nor do I expect the company to support a cafeteria, or have a jogging track, or volleyball courts, etc, where I can get recreation.

I understand that crap code, while it may work out in the short term, can end up being a nightmare to maintain. I also understand, however, that there has to be a balance between getting the product out the door and having a perfect architecture to the underlying code. My employer is not paying me because he wants a perfect architecture, he is paying me to be able to balance perfection against being able to have a product to sell that will pay the light bill and my salary.

Regarding salary, I perfectly understand that whoever hires me is most likely working on a project that nobody else has thought of before and is risking a lot to try and bring their product to the market. This risk is something I do not have to take, and so I expect that, while my employer may pay me \$60/hr to code, that they expect to make \$600/hr off my efforts, which will happen ONLY if they can get enough customers to buy the product. I am OK with this. That is how business works and how it should work! If I ever start my own business, this is how I expect the "spread" to be.

I know how to complete taskings. In saying this, I mean that my work is not a hobby, to be done when, and if, I feel like it. (OK, I will play a video game or two every once in a while.) I understand that my job is to turn out code and meet milestones. In addition, I am not one of those who, on getting bored with some aspect of work, will try to convince my boss that we really really need to refactor to code to the latest new language like CoffeeBean, or Caffeine++.

Translation: My job is to work thru the parts of my job that others might see as mundane, and my advice to any subordinates that come griping to me about not being "self-actualized" 100% of the time will be to "Get over it".

I know how to go to my boss and advise him when I am running into, or think I am going to run into, problems. I do this because I do not want him to have egg on his face at the next progress meeting. It makes him look bad, and it makes me look bad.

I know how to come into work on time. I know that if there is a team meeting scheduled at 9AM that I need to be there a 8:50!

I understand that software is intellectual property and that the people that hire me are taking a big risk in trying to do something new, and that what I develop while in the employ of others is THEIR property and is work made for hire. For example, if my company hires me to develop an interface for banks that hooks into Solaris or other systems, I consider it unethical for me to approach others, such as auto parts manufacturers, to try and sell them the same solution that I was paid to develop for someone else. I will retain no copies of my code or architecture after I leave and essentially will do a core memory dump/wipe of proprietary knowledge before

leaving.

I do not expect any turkey at Thanksgiving or Christmas.

I do not want any raise at Christmas, or New Years.

I do not want any bonus at Christmas, or New Years.

I do not expect any bonus at all. I am supposed to do good work. The pay my employer gives me is my bonus.

If I do get a bonus, I will not use that to set in motion an expectation or obligation for future bonuses

I know how to handle money, both business and personal, and I have a problem with folks that think that their employer is screwing them over because they cannot control their personal spending.

I am not interested in having affairs with office workers .. or anybody else. My personal life DOES affect my business life, and accordingly, I understand that I need to be as diligent in that personal life as I am at the company.

I know how the chain of command works and that going over, or around it, can lead to disruption of the business operations.

I know how to pay attention at meetings.

I know what a suspense file is.

I understand that accounting really does need my travel receipts and that the accounting department is an important part of the business too.

Personal Skills/Attributes

I know how to take a bath and shave and brush my teeth.

I know how to shake hands properly.

I know what clean clothes are.

I know how to hold my knife and fork properly.

I know how to write a thank you note or a follow-up to a colleague I met at a business meeting.

I know how to handle money. I do not live beyond my means and I pay off my credit cards every month and have never paid interest on credit card debt.

I like to read.

If you are interested, please give me a call.

Thank You.

Art Koenig, PE is a 1977 graduate of Rice University where he earned a degree in Civil Engineering. He founded and successfully ran several small engineering firms and is a published author. Art is the founder of xGEL Data Systems and got into the software development business in 2003 when he saw the need to apply business and process optimization to the engineering soils testing lab. Observing the need for more modern processes to speed up the production of the soils testing lab and reduce human error associated with hand data collection methods, he began the xGEL Initiative, the result of which is the xGEL LabMate™ software.

His most successful software project so far, however, has been the xGEL Pong game. It can be found here:

<http://www.xgeltesting.com/downloads.php>