

A black and white photograph of a potted plant and a laptop keyboard. The plant is on the left, and the laptop keyboard is on the right. A yellow banner is overlaid on the image, containing the title text.

5 SKILLS TO BRING INTO A NEW IT JOB

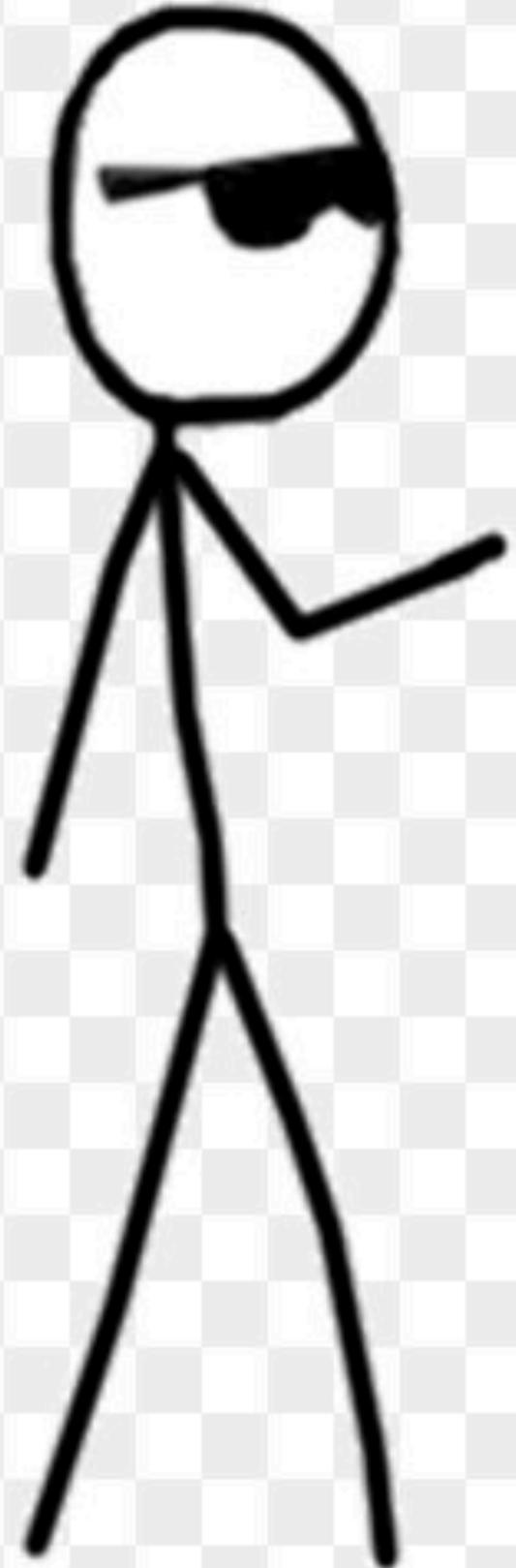
HI, I'M CHELSEY LAKE, FOUNDER OF LAKE DESIGN & CO-FOUNDER OF GETBOOKING

YOU HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE

- Find a company you're interested in working for? Offer to do the work at a cost that won't make the employer think twice about giving you a chance.
- Start at the bottom, and work your way up.
- Work for exchanges (e.g. testimonials)

Your homework:

What's a business in Charlottetown you love, but could use a new website? A new logo? Reach out to them.



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THE PILOT HOUSE
FINE FOOD & SPIRITS

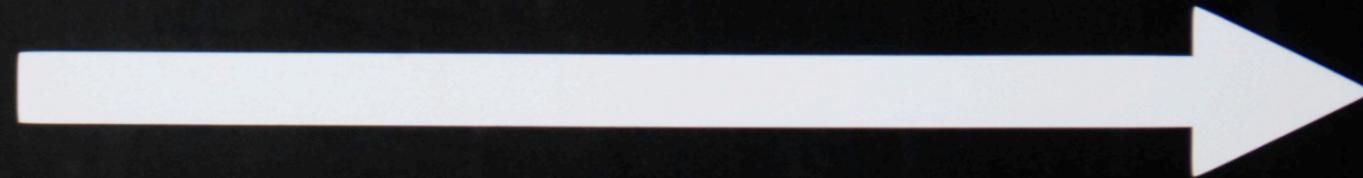
Home

Menu

Private Functions

Contact

THE
PILOT HOUSE

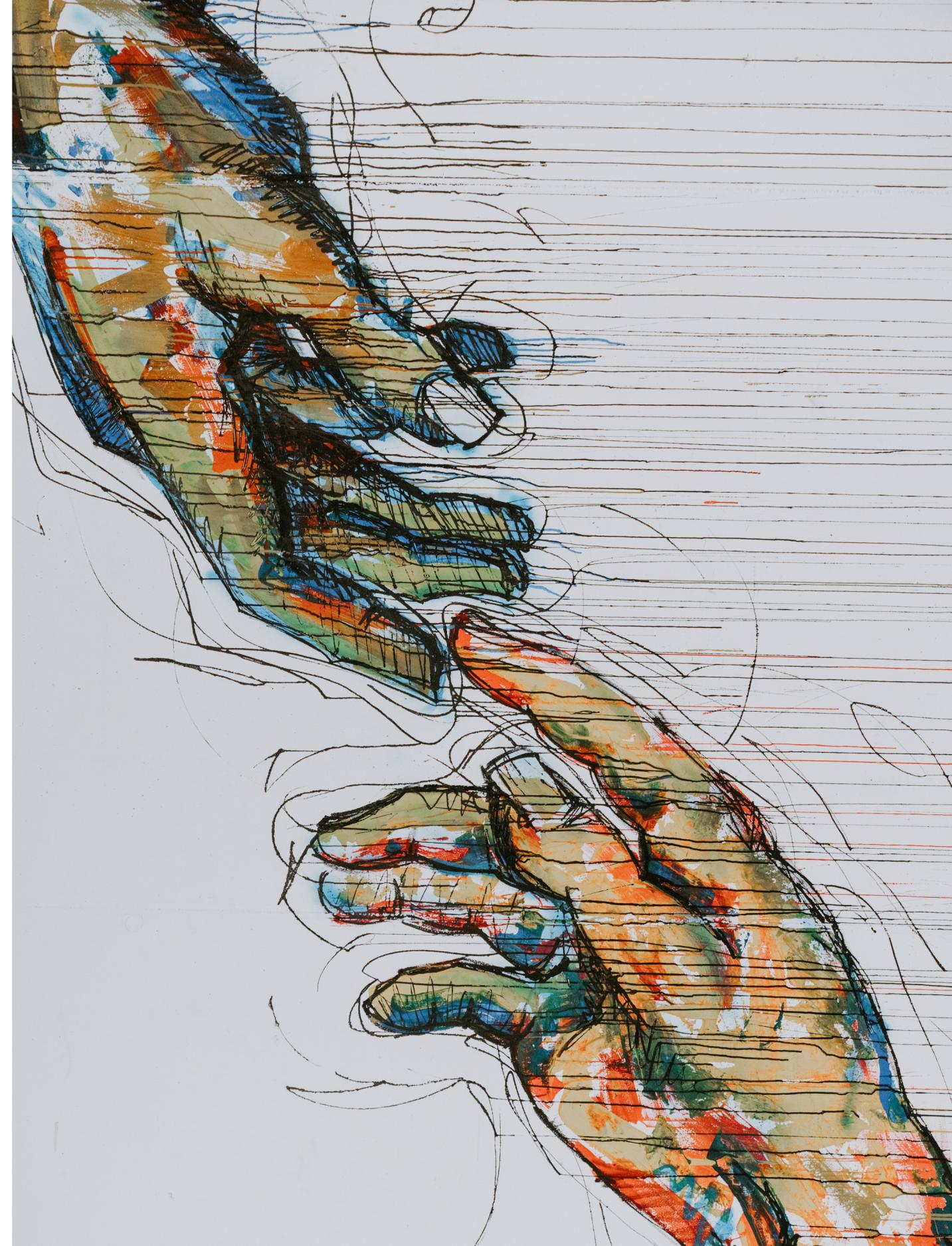


YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR NETWORK

- Be present on social networks relevant to your dream industry.
- Reach out to friends/family.
- Ask people out for coffee.
- Network IRL.

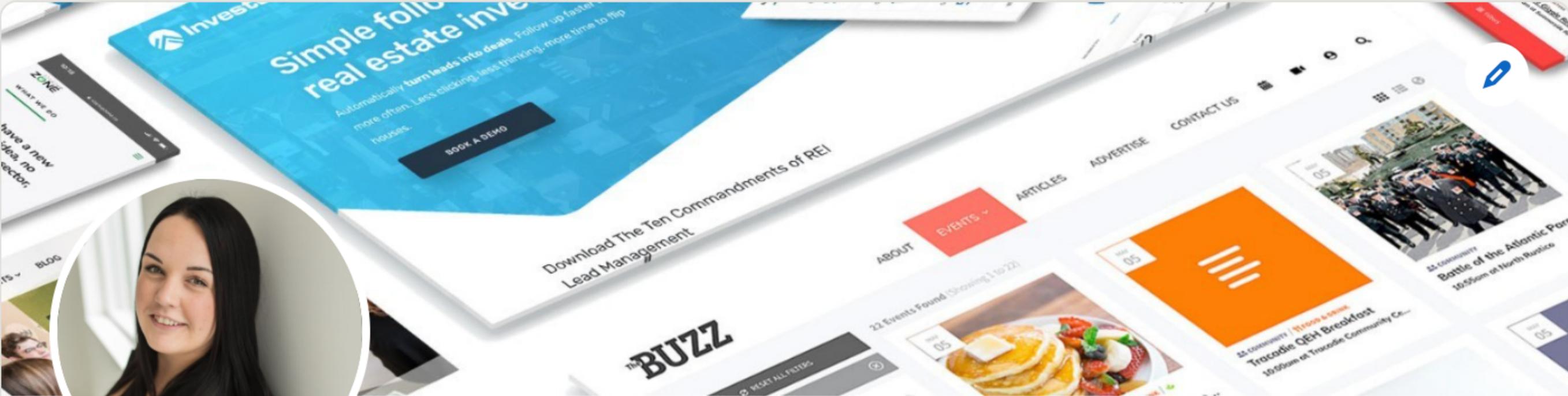
Your homework:

Is your LinkedIn profile up to date?



Your homework:

Is your linkedin profile up to date? This is your online, living resume.



Chelsey Lake
Founder of Lake Design & Strategies, Co-Founder of Getbooking.io, Web Designer / Developer and Marketing Strategist
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada · [Contact info](#)

 **Getbooking.io**
 **University of Guelph**

YOU HAVE TO FIND MENTORS / GROW

They will help connect you to others down the road

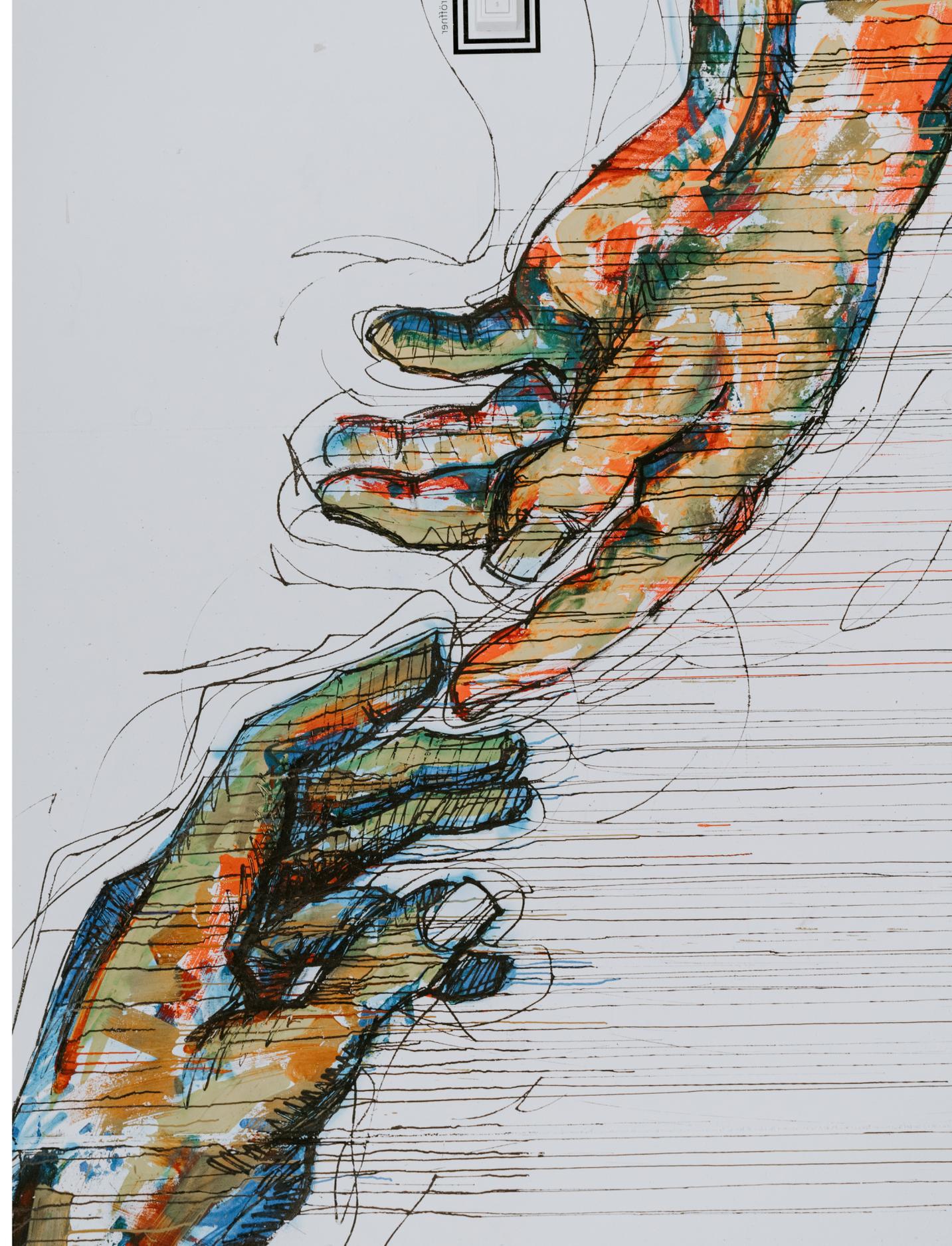
Offer career-related recommendations

Give you an “in” at their company

Your homework:

Who is someone on this island, doing the job you dream of doing, or is working in the industry you dream of working in? Do you have a superstar at work you look up to?

Ask them for coffee.



Your homework:

1) Keep it short and sweet.

Hi person I want to know, my name is Chelsey and I'm a local web designer on PEI. I follow your work and you inspire me to continue growing my skills. I would love the chance to sit down and ask you few questions about how you got started, and what you're working on now. Would Friday at 8:30am work for you? Coffee is on me!

2) Treat it like a job interview. Have questions prepared, be professional.

3) Follow up & Stay in touch

HAVE IT SKILLS

Competition is fierce, to say the least. You need to possess at least *some* IT skills in order to land on a high paying tech job.

Teach yourself: Many programming languages and certain IT skills can be self-taught through online courses, mentoring, etc.

Certifications: Certifications can be a solid way to ensure your abilities meet professional standards. You'll generally have to pass an exam.

Bootcamps: Generally lasting several weeks, bootcamps are intensive courses that are designed to bring you specific skills in that time period. Coding bootcamps are popular, bootcamps exist for topics like cybersecurity as well.

Degrees: Getting a degree in computer science or a related field can be a structured way to gain the technical skills needed to enter the computer world. Plus, going back to school is correlated with higher incomes.



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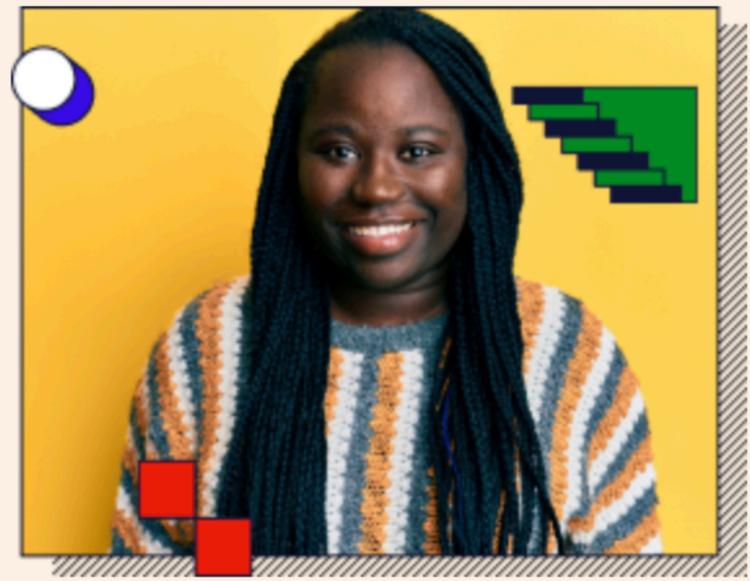
Created by [Steve McDonald](#)

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HAVE IT SKILLS

Your homework:

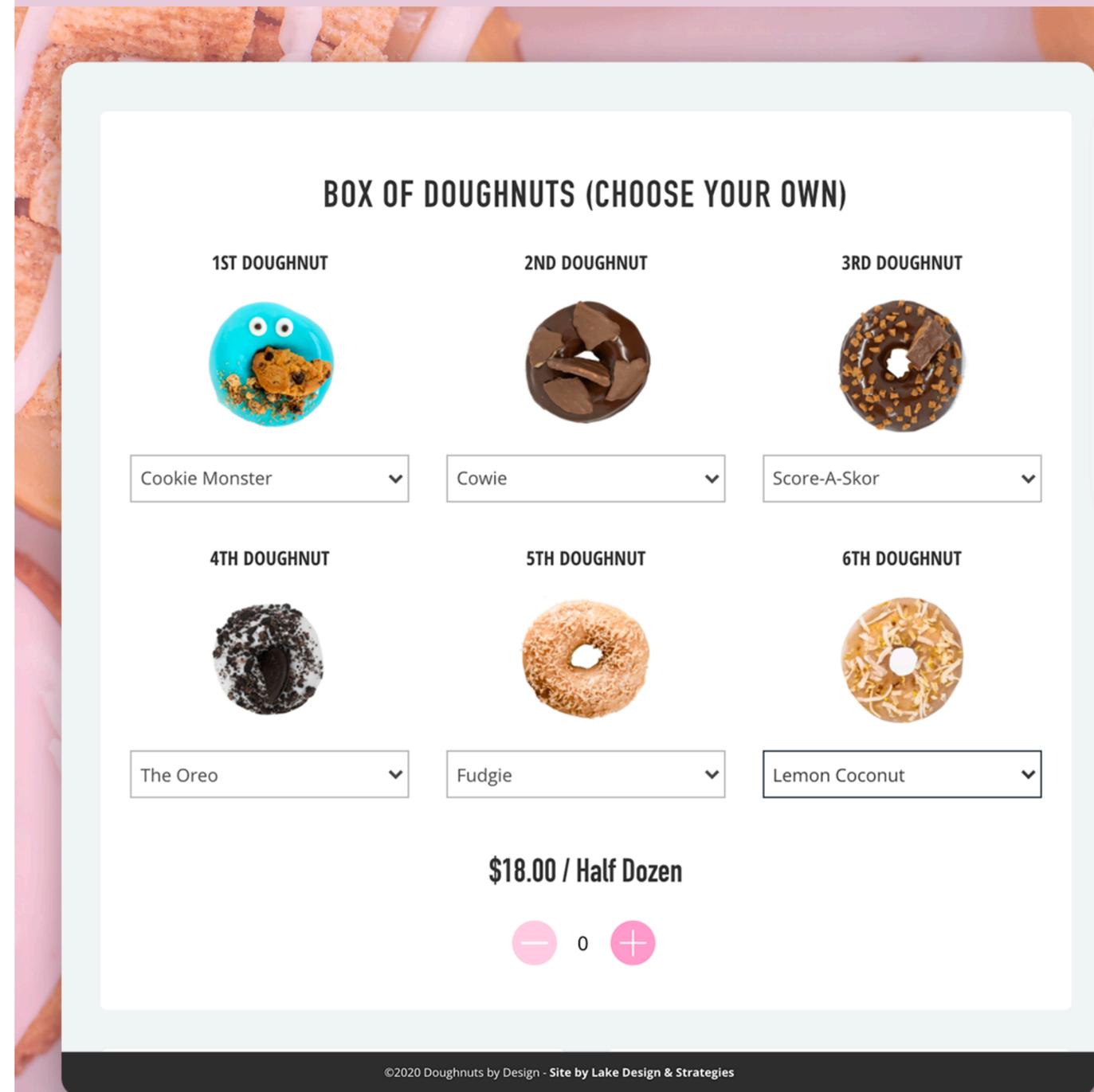
Have at least 1-3 projects that demonstrate your skills in IT or graphic design, ready and accessible for a future employer to review.

Is this your first project?

- Do a fake mockup of a fake product.

Already have a decent portfolio of work?

- Show the company something you could do better for them specifically. (Doughnuts by Design).



YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPANIES BRAND AND OBJECTIVES

*This is one of the #1 skills IT companies are seeking in 2021

Get familiar with your companies (or potential companies) past projects, pay attention to the style of work they want to achieve, the pace they work at - as much as you can match the flow of what the company is doing and how they do it - the more indispensable you'll be.

Don't be afraid to ask questions and show initiative.

**LA
KE**

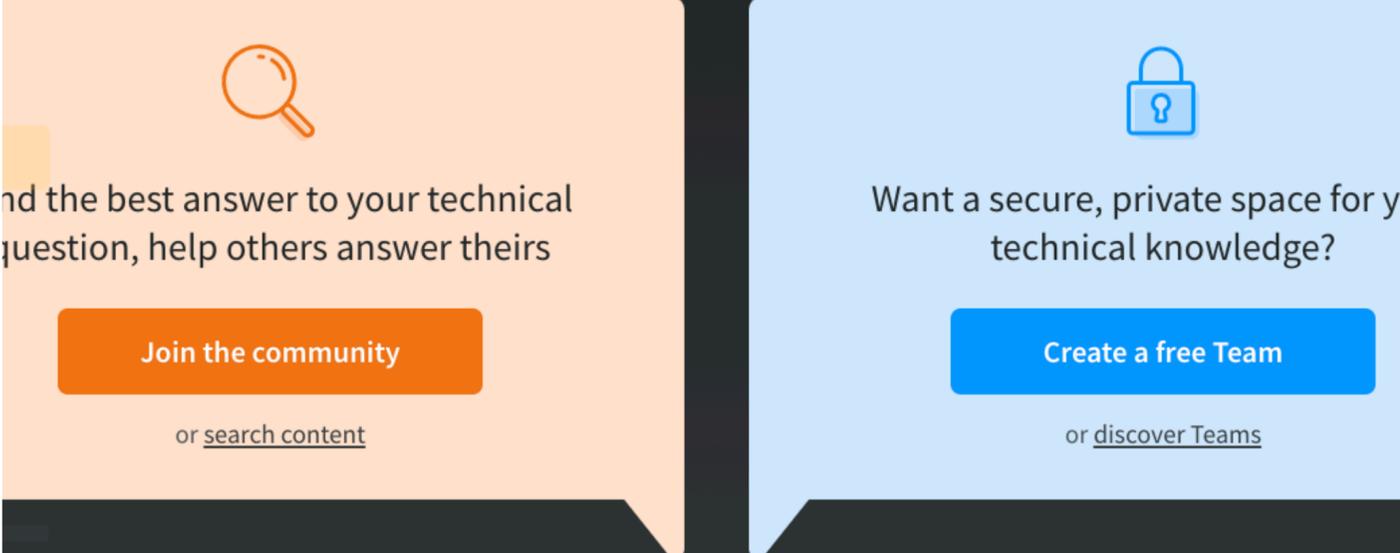
YOU HAVE TO BE RESOURCEFUL & KEEP LEARNING

Don't reinvent the wheel.

Stackoverflow & Codepen are great resources for finding code snippets when your stuck.

Dribbble & Behance are great resources for design inspiration.

Come to your employers with solutions - not problems.



Find the best answer to your technical question, help others answer theirs

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Want a secure, private space for your technical knowledge?

[Create a free Team](#)

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Every developer has a tab open to Stack Overflow

100+ million
Daily visitors to Stack Overflow & Stack Exchange

45.1+ billion
Times a developer got help since 2008

179% ROI
from companies using Stack Overflow for Teams

5,000+
Stack Overflow for Teams instances active

**DON'T JUST WORK ON YOUR
CODING SKILLS; LEARN SOFT
SKILLS TOO**



ASDA