

Shrikar Khare

A geophysicist and self-taught developer pivots from a struggling industry to new opportunities.

Shrikar Khare is no stranger to continuous learning. A geophysicist by training, he was working at an Ottawa-based start-up offering solutions to the oil and gas industry when he dipped into some light coding to update the company's website. One thing led to another, and soon Shrikar was teaching himself HTML, CSS and JavaScript and writing his own code. Within two years, he was the go-to front-end developer at his company.

What came next is an all too familiar pandemic story. Shrikar's small company was forced to downsize, and he was let go. With one foot already in tech, he saw the layoff as an opportunity to break from the struggling oil and gas industry and take his career in a new direction.

A passion for helping people

Shrikar was already skilled in front-end development but wanted to be able to create applications and websites from scratch. XTAP's Python bootcamp offered an inroad to the backend side of things and put him on the path to full stack development, his ultimate career ambition. In the Lighthouse Labs-designed and -delivered course, he learned the ins and outs of Python, one of the most popular programming languages in the



world, along with Flask, a Python microframework for building web applications. Because the program simulates a practical working environment, Shrikar also came away with valuable soft skills, like the ability to work with a development team and communicate programming concepts and problems to people with different levels of knowledge.

Learning to think like a programmer

For Shrikar, though, programming is more than a set of skills he switches on from nine to five. “Computer programming is not a particular skill but a way of thinking,” he says. “You have to be able to see a problem in many lights.” Programming complements his scientific background, calling on the same creative problem-solving skills that made him a successful geophysicist, while giving him the satisfaction of producing a tangible product — evidence of a job well done. “With every line of code, every product that you put out, you’re creating something that adds value to people’s lives.”

Now that he’s backend trained, he’s keen to prove that he can do exactly that. “The biggest challenge for a self-taught software developer is proving to recruiters that you have the fundamental knowledge that academic developers do,” he says. “XTAP has helped me bridge that gap.”

Hire Shrikar

