

Homework — The IT Map

Estimated time: ~45 min · No code required

Three short tool-tour exercises. Goal: get your hands on the actual surfaces IT people use every day — not to learn them deeply yet, but to confirm they exist and to start recognising the vocabulary from this lesson in the wild. Take screenshots and jot a few notes as you go — future lessons will keep referring back to what you saw here.

How to do these

Open each linked site in a new tab. No installs, no accounts (except as explicitly called out), no money. If a step asks for something you can't find in 30 seconds, write down "couldn't find <thing>" and move on — that's a perfectly valid observation about modern UIs.

Task 1 — Map yourself onto the seven neighborhoods

From the theory page, list the seven neighborhoods of IT in your own notes: Frontend, Backend & APIs, Databases & Data, Networking & The Internet, DevOps & Cloud, Security, AI / ML.

Now, in one sentence each:

1. Pick the **neighborhood you already use most** day-to-day and write one sentence (e.g., *"I use Frontend every day as a Notion user."* or *"I use Databases every time I run a report in our CRM."*).
2. Pick the **two neighborhoods you most want to understand** by the end of this 12-lesson course, and write one sentence each on *why* — what conversation at work or what question in life you'd be able to engage with if you understood them.

✓ **Self-check: you can name all 7 neighborhoods from memory (close this page and try); for at least 3 of them, you've named one specific tool, app, or**

person at work that lives in that neighborhood.

Task 2 — Tool tour: open GitHub

Open github.com. **Don't** sign up — you don't need an account for this.

1. In the search box at the top, type `react` and press Enter. Open the top result (it should be `facebook/react`).
2. On the repo page, find and write down:
 - how many **stars** the project has (top-right area);
 - roughly how many **contributors** (look in the right sidebar, "Contributors" section);
 - when the **last commit** was (just above the file list — "latest commit" with a relative timestamp).
3. Scroll down to the **README** (the long block of text below the file list). Read the first 2 paragraphs.
4. Click the **Issues** tab. Notice the count and skim the titles of the top 3 open issues. (You don't need to understand them — just notice they exist.)

✓ **Self-check:** you can name 3 things you saw on the repo page (e.g., "*stars badge*", "*README*", "*Issues tab*", "*file tree*", "*branch selector*"); you can write one sentence about *what the project does* in your own words; you have a rough sense of whether this project is *actively maintained* based on the last-commit date.

Task 3 — Tool tour: read a real job listing

Open [linkedin.com/jobs](https://www.linkedin.com/jobs) or [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com). Search for "**Software Engineer**" (or, if you prefer, "*Data Engineer*", "*DevOps Engineer*", or "*Security Engineer*" — any of the role names from the theory page).

1. Pick **one listing** from a company you've heard of.
2. Scroll to the **Requirements** (or "*Qualifications*" / "*What you'll need*") section.

3. Highlight (or copy into your notes) **5 technologies or tools** mentioned — e.g., `Python`, `AWS`, `React`, `PostgreSQL`, `Kubernetes`, `Terraform`.
4. For each of the 5, write one sentence answering: *which neighborhood from this lesson does it belong to?* (frontend / backend / database / network / DevOps / security / AI). If you don't recognise a term, write "*don't know — look up in lesson XX*" — that's the vocabulary the rest of this course will give you.

✓ **Self-check: you've identified 5 specific technologies from a real job posting; for at least 3 of them, you can confidently say which neighborhood they live in; you have a written list of the unfamiliar terms to revisit as the course progresses.**

What "done" looks like

You finish this homework when you have, in your notes:

- The 7 neighborhoods listed, with your "*already use*" and "*want to learn*" picks (Task 1).
- A short description of the `facebook/react` repo and 3 page elements you noticed (Task 2).
- A real job listing's URL plus 5 technologies mapped to their neighborhoods (Task 3).

That's it — you've now seen the two surfaces (GitHub + a real job description) you'll keep bumping into for the rest of this course, and you've started building your own internal map of the IT city.