

1. Optimally you're currently employed - gives you a platform to negotiate from that doesn't exist otherwise.
2. Unless you have no other choice - have care with your longevity. The trend over the last ten years has shown a steady decrease in the length of time a candidate remains with his/her company - not a good trend. Ten years may not be the norm any longer - but 1.5 shouldn't be either.
3. Especially noted in IT resumes - listing every technology you've ever touched - a turn off. Highlight your strongest skills - and if you must list C++ even if you haven't programmed in the language in more than four years, parse it out clearly:
Top Skills: Java, J2EE, Linux
Touched: C++ (4 years ago - 6 years total experience), SCRUM (in previous role for three projects over six months)
4. If you have a degree, place it front and center - especially in tech - experience can outweigh the degree preference - still, most clients initially request a degree. So, if you have it - highlight it. This includes certifications like MCSE and CCNP.
5. Obviously I'm going to highlight engaging a recruiter - find one you can partner with - they're out there. There's a ton of recruiters who will call when they have something and forgetcha when they don't - and you'll get fifty calls a day in this market - often for roles that don't even come close to matching your background - so get strategic. Pick one or two who specialize in what you do - if another recruiter calls with an opportunity, share it with your recruiter - you miss nothing and you deepen the relationship with someone you trust to help you find that next challenge. Let your recruiter know what companies interest you - give them the opportunity to help you open a door - the more you collaborate the harder a good recruiter will work for you.
6. Be honest about compensation - combining your base, bonus, what you received in reimbursements, and your 401k matching into one big fat base fools no one. If you are looking for higher than a 5-10% increase in your next role - be prepared to back it up with a good strong why. It's been done successfully, make sure you prepare.
7. Social Networking - LinkedIn, Facebook, Plaxo, Meetup.com - find an online or social networking venue that works for you. Create a profile, answer questions, make requests. Build a community with one or more of these portals - they have high success rates and are increasingly popular - providing access to a community of professionals you might otherwise not have access to.
8. Posting. Posting is a whole separate topic. To touch on it - Two pet peeves: One, if you're going confidential - make sure you insert your resume confidentially - you look pretty silly posting confidentially only to have a recruiter - in-house or not - click on the link and see all your information. Two, specify your citizenship. If you are a citizen, you do not require sponsorship - if you require sponsorship, make that clear - saves time and frustration on both ends - digging for *any* pertinent information is a waste of time and doesn't win you that phone call you're waiting for.
9. indeed.com - fabulous resource - Go play.
10. Spell check your stuff - I don't care if your job is 100% programming - spell check that resume. Careless resume, careless code.