



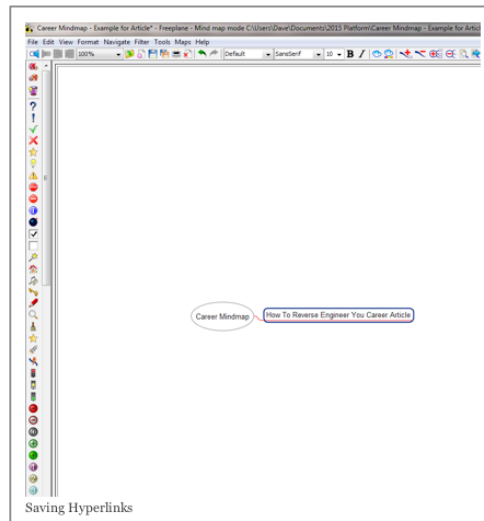
Dave Blackman
February 19, 2015

A Practical Example of Visualizing Your Career Goals

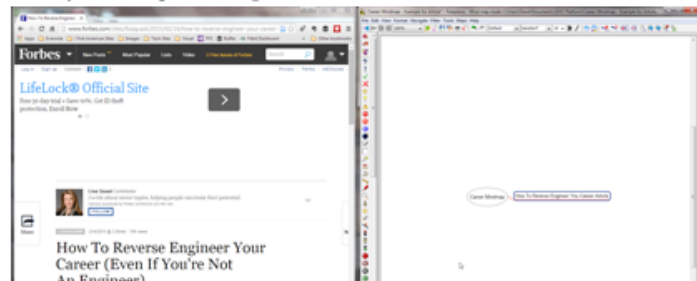
I recently re-posted a [Forbes article via social media on how to reverse engineer your career](#) and thought it would make a good example as to how you might practically use a tool like Freeplane to create a mindmap you could use to create a personal road map. With this or any type of road map you can then follow your plan to success. Here's how I took the article and decomposed it into the mindmap tool:

Creating The Map

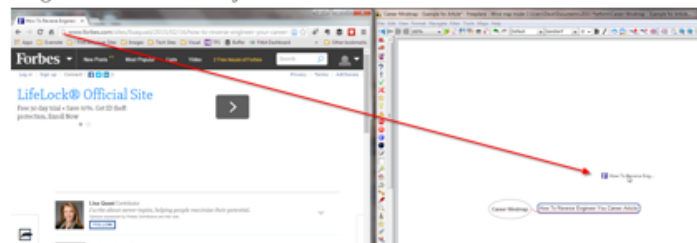
After downloading the Freeplane tool ([see my previous article here for details](#)) you simply start a new map and label the initial bubble 'Career Mindmap'. Next, using your insert key or by right-clicking on the first bubble, you add a node and type in 'How To Reverse Engineer Your Career Article'.



I love Freeplane as it allow you to quickly move URL's into your mindmap. I typically split my screen into to vertical halves with the site I want on the left and my mindmap on the right.



Next, I place my cursor over the document icon in the URL line and simply drag it over to the node I just created.



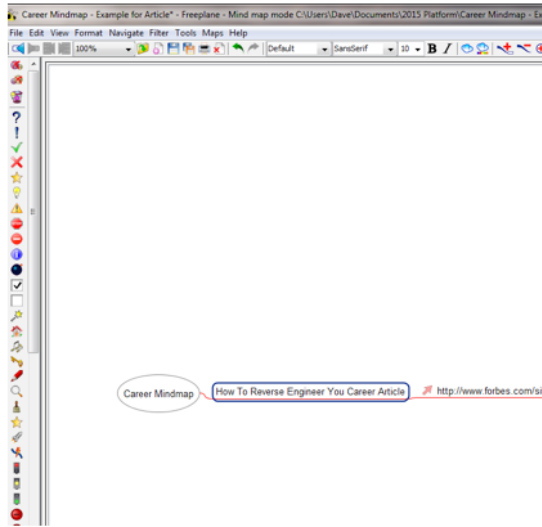
You can see below how the link looks in the mindmap with the small arrow indicating this is an active link to the URL.



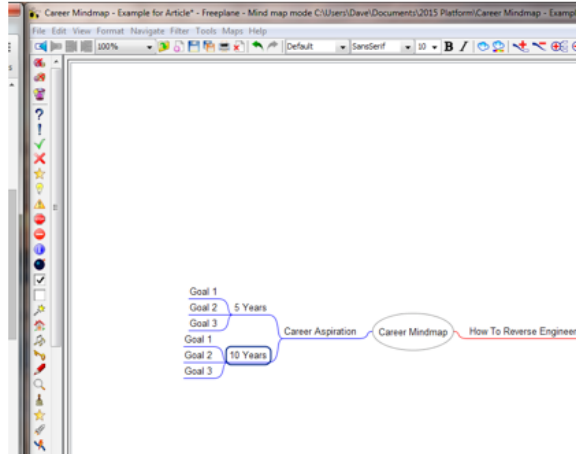
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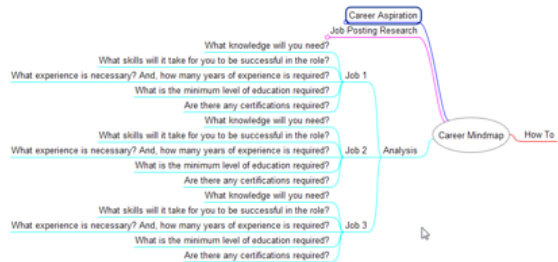
Next, I create additional nodes based on the article such as 'Career Aspirations' with related nodes....



...nodes for job posting research and the related descriptions and requirements...



...along with the jobs you have found and the questions for each the author asks.



Analysis then follows based on your own experiences, skills, and gaps you discover along the way...



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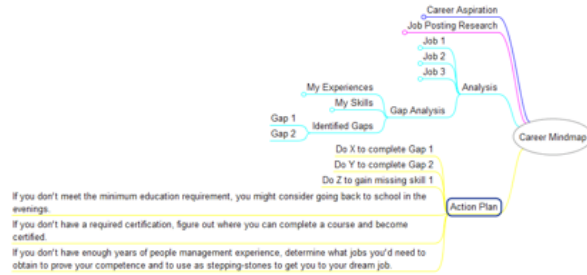


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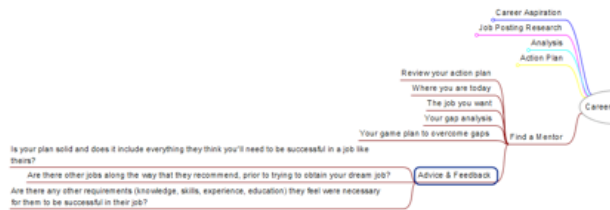
February 19, 2015



Now you can determine your action plan to fill in those discovered gaps, what you may need to do for experience or education, and questions the author points out you should consider.



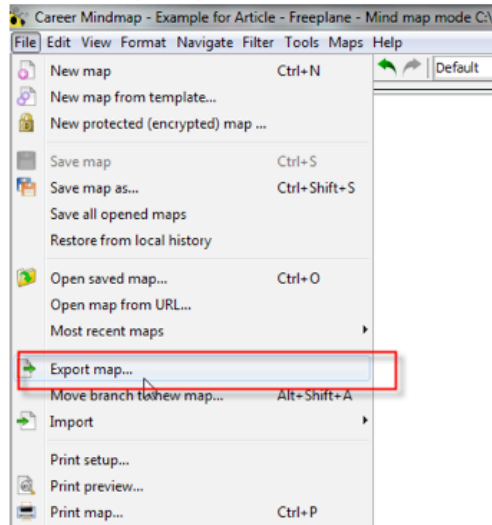
Lastly, you can list out your points for consideration by a mentor (and you may want to identify a few).



So after going through all this work, what does that get you? Actually, creating this type of mindmap isn't that hard after a little practice with the tools. Learning shortcut keys will help as well with your speed in creating a map. All that typing actually does provide you with a document you can create by exporting the map.

How to make a Road Map

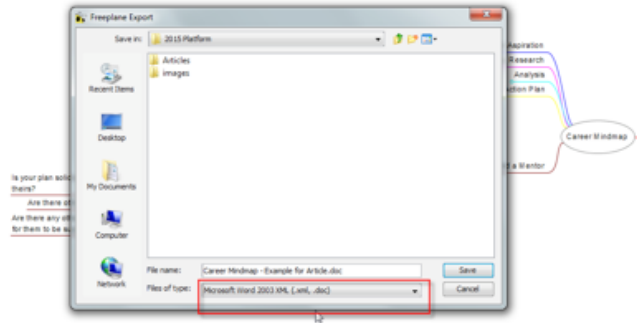
From the File menu, Export map...



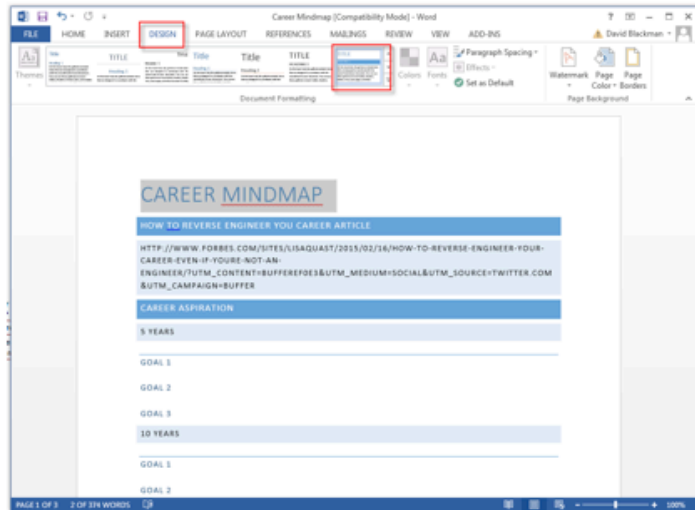


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...and ensure you select the right file type (such as Word or your export of choice).



After saving the document, go to that location and open the file. The initial file will look a little strange as no design or formatting will have occurred – it's just raw output at this point. Go to the design tab and select one you like, then your document will look something like this:



Now you have the start of a great Word document you can further refine, show to your mentor, and save to periodically review your progress.

Let me know if you find this article helpful – or if you have questions on any of the above steps I may have overlooked.

Reference

How To Reverse Engineer Your Career (Even If You're Not An Engineer) by Lisa Quast @careerwomaninc

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/lisaquast/2015/02/16/how-to-reverse-engineer-your-career-even-if-youre-not-an-engineer>



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