
PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY / CAPABILITY DESIGN

Skill Stacking: *Intersection* Economics

The labor market buys legible combinations; stack with intent, ship with evidence, prune like an editor.

SYSTEM ARCHETYPE 052

Skill Stack / *Intersection* /

Skill stacking designs capability portfolios where combined skills produce non-obvious value—if proof assets make the intersection legible. Read alongside Pareto concentration of effort, path dependence

of credentials, inversion on commodity stacks, and modularity so skills plug into income systems cleanly.

"Three skills that multiply beat ten skills that merely add—if the receipts agree."

1. Intersection *Economics*

The intersection must be legible: proof assets, named outcomes, and demos that make recruiters and clients stop guessing. When demand shifts, the policy should specify primary craft, satellite skills, and explicit 'do not pursue' boundaries. If two peers cannot describe your stack in one sentence, tighten it. Draw boundaries between curiosity sprawl and a declared primary craft.

Credential inflation means portfolios beat diplomas for many stacks—show receipts. Quarterly reviews should reconcile client testimonials, shipped repos, and public writing that tie skills to outcomes. Boring portfolios beat brilliant course lists. Stress feedback delays between study, portfolio proof, and market belief.

Learning debt accrues when courses outrun shipped work; interest is paid in lost credibility. A serious skill charter should publish compensation data for the intersection, not generic averages for each solo skill. Prune like an editor, not a hoarder. Sketch causal loop diagrams for learning time, proof assets, and income lag.

Skill stacking is intersection economics: three skills that multiply when combined are worth more than ten skills that merely add—but only if the market agrees. Before marketing a stack, verify whether hours in deliberate practice versus hours in consumption disguised as learning. Intersection without proof is a hypothesis with a logo. Draw boundaries between curiosity sprawl and a declared primary craft.

Rare combinations decay when templates commoditize; refresh the stack on a calendar, not on panic. The adult version of stacking is to document assumptions about automation eating the middle of your stack while edges remain valuable. Depth compounds; novelty decays. Run inversion on the stack: three ways the intersection is common, not unique.

T-shaped depth still matters; a stack of shallow badges is a coupon book, not a moat. If time is fixed, interrogate the intersection is rare on job boards, not only rare in your imagination. Breadth without receipts is cosplay. Sketch causal loop diagrams for learning time, proof assets, and income lag.

2. Proof *and* Legibility

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Teaching what you stack is both distribution and falsification: bad stacks break faster under students' questions. Stress the stack by assuming automation eating the middle of your stack while edges remain valuable. Skills are modules; interfaces must be public. Sketch causal loop diagrams for learning time, proof assets, and income lag.

Obsolescence schedules differ by domain; pair technical depth with communication craft that ages slower. Second-order thinkers ask how portfolio proof interacts with the intersection is rare on job boards, not only rare in your imagination. When doubt appears, ship before you stack. Budget entropy for outdated certs, stale portfolios, and course debt that never shipped.

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3. Depth *versus Breadth*

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4. Learning *Debt*

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5. Decay *and Refresh*

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6. Portfolio *as Product*

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7. Teaching *and Falsification*

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SKILL STACK DESIGN PASS

01

Name the intersection

One sentence the market can repeat.

02

Proof backlog

Ships, clients, artifacts dated.

03

Time budget

Weekly hours for depth vs. adjacency.

04

Prune list

Skills explicitly deferred or retired.

8. Atlas *Integration*

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Build the *lattice*, not the legend.

Return to the Reading hub for essays, tools, and the rest of the 100-topic map.

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