Working in the Real World
Reality
The Real-er World

- Industrial Research
- Large company
- Startup/small company
Industrial Research

- Like academia
- Without the students
- Shorter funding cycles
- No tenure
But Different

- Labs have different funding models
- Teams are smaller and more experienced
- You don’t (usually) start as a PI
- Goals can be different
- Technology transfer
- Financial justification
- R and D (you need to build things)
Large Company

- Large can mean different things
- Anything above 100
- Orders of magnitude matter
- Stability
- Interesting projects
- Lots of resources
Differences

- You start at the bottom/middle
- You build rather than research
- Goal is a product
  - May be internal
- You might publish
  - But it isn’t a main goal
Startups/Small Company

• You might start at the top
• But that’s a problem
• You will learn a lot
• No real job description
• Rewards can be huge
• Unlikely
Differences

• It’s all about the product
• Everyone has to do everything
• It is pure engineering
• Do it cheap, fast
• Good enough
• VCs are not your friends
For any of these

• There are some different skills
• Working in a team
• Bug fixing
• Software process
• Code reviews
• You will spend the first six months learning
How to get a job

- Time scales are different in industry
- Industrial labs
  - Helps if you know someone (internships)
- Large companies
  - They recruit
- Startups/small companies
  - Luck-- just ask if you see one
Why do any of this?

• More jobs than academia
• If you like to build, this is the place
• The pay varies from good to holy shit...
• There are interesting problems to be solved
And the two are not mutually incompatible...