Careers Inspiration

To help young people make informed choices about their future, we’ve teamed up with people working in technology and asked them to share their experiences and insight to help demystify different career and education pathways. If you know young people who are excited by technology and interested in where it could take them, the resources below can help.

Did you know there are fantastic career prospects for those who take up computer science? The salaries are excellent too because there are not enough people to do these jobs. You could turn your passion into a job in the gaming industry or fashion. What about social media marketing – maybe promoting a good cause? Or if you want to keep the bad guys at bay – try cyber security. Plus, in health you could end up using AI in cutting-edge research. There is also banking, engineering and architecture - the list is endless. Many jobs that will exist in 2030 haven’t been invented yet, but computer science skills will keep you ahead of the curve.

Software Engineer Damask Talary-Brown, studied science and computing science at Bath University and now works at Morgan Stanley investment bank.

"I spend my morning in touch with our international team, then spend time writing code and solving technical problems. I enjoy wrestling with a problem which can take hours or sometimes even days. Working out a solution is like a dopamine hit. I like the feeling that I get to build something useful, and it was me that designed it."

We’re speaking to people who have taken all different paths, such as degrees, apprenticeships and internships so you can find out about different options for education and training too. During these sessions we chat with people who have chosen a career in IT, to find out about what they do, and their experiences.

Our "Why study computing at school?" leaflet also outlines possible job roles and career pathways for this subject area.

Discover more with these useful links and resources

Here’s a summary of some of the great advice that has been shared so far:
"Do what you enjoy"

If you make choices based on what you enjoy then your passion will come through and, ultimately, you’ll be happier. If you don’t know what you enjoy yet then have a go at lots of different things. Will at Science and Technology Facilities Council told us, “If you’re interested in doing stuff don’t worry about what other people think, try things out at home if you can. There are things you can do online with a web browser, like coding online or setting up your own server at home.”

"There’s no need to have it all planned out"

If you already know what you want to do in the future, that’s great. If you’re in the majority and aren’t sure yet then don’t worry. You don’t need a plan in order to be successful. Ruby from Microsoft commented, “Don’t try to decide what you want to do with your career too early on in life, I was pretty set that I wanted to be a physio from when I was 14 or 15 and because I didn’t think about anything else I had such a set mindset that that’s what I wanted to do, I potentially restricted myself and didn’t look at the options into IT for example earlier on in life so I would just say keep open minded.”

"Learning and problem solving are key skills"

When choosing your next steps, have confidence in yourself. Don’t worry that you don’t know enough about a certain topic or subject. The key is being passionate and open to learning. Nobody can ever know it all, especially with technology because things change so fast! Laura from Microsoft says, “Remember there’s no expectation to know everything, that’s what it’s all about really, the learning and how to implement it.”

"Be Curious"

Be open to new ideas, new ways of doing things and new opinions. A thirst for knowledge and experiences will grow your knowledge and skills. Natasha from John Lewis advises, “Be really curious about stuff and don’t worry about making a mistake or failing because you can always learn from something that didn’t go well. So always try and see the flip side of something not going brilliantly, how can I learn something from that experience.”

"Seize opportunities"

See a chance to do some work experience, shadowing, or to find out more about a company? Go for it! Amber from Google says, “Take every opportunity. Throw yourself into everything, and if you choose to do anything, do it with everything you’ve got. Put 110% in.”
Life of an App Developer with Dean Blacc

Working in AR Gaming with Tara Reddy
Digital Careers folder for IT / Computer Science

WEBINAR SERIES

CAREERS INSPIRATION
LIFE IN CYBER SECURITY

JOSH CALLICOTT

Working in Cyber Security with Josh Callicott

WEBINAR SERIES

CAREERS INSPIRATION
LIFE IN A GRADUATE SCHEME

ALICE WHITELY
CLAIRE BISSETT

Working at BT as a BT graduate with Alice and Claire
Life as a delivery lead

Life as a management consultant
Life in digital marketing

Life as a field engineer
CAREERS INSPIRATION
LIFE AS A PORTFOLIO MANAGER

Life as a portfolio manager

CAREERS INSPIRATION
LIFE AS A SENIOR ENGINEER

Life as a senior engineer
Want a career in digital?

Digital technology is in every industry – including retail, design, insurance, banking, aerospace, energy, and healthcare.

Little wonder then, that people who understand how digital technology works – and how to use it creatively – are in huge demand.

The digital industries offer a massive variety of job opportunities – from data analysis, cyber security, computer programming, games development to digital marketing, copywriting and social media.

5 reasons to consider a digital career:

1. It’s an industry that keeps on growing
2. A variety of options and career paths
3. You’ll always pick up new skills along the way
4. It’s not just for computer wizards anymore
5. Commands higher salaries than other industries

How to kickstart your digital career...

There is a range of paths that will take you into this exciting profession. Popular routes include doing a digital apprenticeship or choosing one of the new digital T Levels that will be on offer from September 2020. The courses bring classroom and industry placement together, so you can take your first step into a career you want. Find out more by speaking to your local education and training providers about your options.

Did you know...?

BCS, the Chartered Institute of IT will offer student membership for digital T Level students which includes an online personal career centre, bookshop discount, mentoring, networking opportunities and more.

Find out more at bcs.org
INSIDE SOFTWARE
THE SKILLS THAT MAKE COMPUTING AMAZING

Inside Software

INSIDE GAMING
WHAT'S IT REALLY LIKE TO WORK IN THE INDUSTRY

Inside Gaming
INSIDE SOFTWARE
THE SKILLS THAT MAKE COMPUTING AMAZING

Inside Software

Arriane, Junior Developer
Now in her first role at Great Commerce,
Arriane has been here for eight months now and
I love it. While the first few weeks were
working on front-end HTML, CSS and
JavaScript, which I love, I’m also currently
learning about back-end and databases.
In the tech world, there’s always room to
grow and new technologies to master so
there’s never a dull moment. The
possibilities are endless and that’s truly
exciting.

I’m focused on the future, I see new
progress and new career pathways ahead.
Software development is an exciting
field with progressive opportunities to
grow.

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CAREERS IN SOFTWARE & TESTING
Thinking of a career in Software Development & Testing?

Software developers design the software applications and operating systems that mean so much in everyday life. This is not only involved with writing code, but such a range of activities as analyzing the needs and experiences of users, and creating software that meets these needs in ways that improve their experiences.

Software developers ensure the software and systems are free from defects, and they identify and fix these defects. To ensure that software applications and systems are in line with users' expectations, software developers are involved in all stages of the software development process, from concept creation to deployment.

Did you know...?

BCS, The Chartered Institute of IT, offers a variety of courses for those interested in software development, including degrees, apprenticeships, and other qualifications.

Find out more on ICI.org

How do I get into the industry?

There are many ways to get into the software development industry. You could start by taking a digital and technical skills course, or you could gain experience through an unpaid internship or a paid apprenticeship program.

Do you have a knack for solving problems? Are you interested in technology and innovation? Do you enjoy working with others? Then software development might be the perfect career for you.

So, is it for me?

You like solving problems

You're an analytical and strategic thinker

You're good at creating new ideas

You're a team player

Software developers need to be comfortable working with others, creating a positive work environment, and providing feedback to help teams reach their goals.

Yogi, Software Technician

I work for our software agency, Find Me.

I work in the team that creates mobile apps and games. It's a fast-paced and rewarding environment. I love the sense of achievement when I see my work in action.

The software developer role is very diverse, with opportunities to work on a wide range of projects. It's a great way to learn new skills and gain experience.

Find out more on ICI.org

Digital Careers folder for IT / Computer Science