

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."

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CAREERS INSPIRATION

LIFE OF AN APP DEVELOPER

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DEAN BLACC

The image shows a promotional graphic for a webinar. On the left is a green vertical panel with white text. On the right is a close-up portrait of a man with glasses and a slight smile. A small green box with white text is overlaid on the bottom right of the portrait.

[Life of an App Developer with Dean Blacc](#)

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LIFE IN AR GAMING

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TARA REDDY

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[Working in AR Gaming with Tara Reddy](#)



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KRUPALI BHAGANI

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[Life as a portfolio manager](#)



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LIFE AS A SENIOR ENGINEER

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LIAM RICHARDSON

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[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](https://www.bcs.org)

INSIDE SOFTWARE

THE SKILLS THAT MAKE COMPUTING AMAZING

[Inside Software](#)

INSIDE GAMING

WHAT'S IT REALLY LIKE TO WORK IN THE INDUSTRY

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INSIDE SOFTWARE

THE SKILLS THAT MAKE COMPUTING AMAZING

Inside Software

Arriane, Junior Developer
Arriane is working at Gene Commerce.

"I've been here for eight months now and I love it. Within the first few weeks I was working on front-end HTML, CSS and GitHub, which felt great. I'm also constantly learning and given time to study and do tutorials, plus the lead developers are always on hand to answer my questions."

"I'm focused on the future. I can see progress and see a clear career pathway ahead. With software development I can see the progression opportunities so clearly."

"There's always so much room to grow with technology, you'll never stop learning. The possibilities are endless and that's really exciting."

Top Tip: Show your passion – find ways to show you're keen to learn

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CAREERS IN SOFTWARE & TESTING



Thinking of a career in Software Development & Testing?

If you're a creative thinker with a knack for solving puzzles, resolving problems and seeing opportunities, there is a world of possibility to explore in software development and testing.

As more and more aspects of our lives depend on software, there is an ever-growing demand for developers and testers.

Software developers and testers work not only in the tech industry itself – software houses, telecoms, data science and digital agencies, but are also found in all modern organisations including financial services, the creative industries, the retail sector, life sciences as well as the not-for-profit and the public sectors.



Yogi, Software Technician

Yogi runs his own software agency, Finest Design.

From a young age Yogi loved computers – but it wasn't until he was a teenager that he realised you could make a career out of them.

"The first think I made was a one-page website about myself. From then, I know I wanted to work with software"

Yogi went on to set up his company whilst still a teenager. Finest Design specialises in creating coding for websites and online presences for businesses around the world. He is now branching out into apps, which is where he sees the future for his company. He's busy building his first app for outdoor activity enthusiasts.

Top tip:

I love that I've managed to get the skills whilst running my own business, but it's also great to know that I could get a job anywhere!

What do software developers and testers do?

Software developers design the software applications and operating systems that we use in everyday life. You will not only be involved with writing code, but you'll also be involved in analysing the needs and experiences of users and then creating, testing and developing software to meet those needs and improve their experience.

Software testers analyse software and systems to overcome risks and prevent issues. You'll conduct manual and automated tests to ensure that software works as intended and is fit for purpose so that bugs or issues are resolved before the software is deployed.

How do I get into the industry?

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 Level courses 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.

After your studies you might decide to go to University to further study a specific area of your choice. Or you may decide to apply for a job as a Junior developer or a software development technician.

Find out more by speaking to your local education and training providers about your options.

So, is it for me?

A wide variety of people are suitable for a career in software development and testing, but most have the following attributes...

- ✓ **You like solving problems**
The purpose of developing software is to create programs that solve problems. If you're the type who can identify issues and find out the best way to approach a solution, you'll be a perfect fit for a software development career.
- ✓ **You're good at creating new ideas**
A lot of software development depends on finding new ways of doing things. If you have a creative approach and like coming up with new ways of doing things, then you'll enjoy the challenge of software development.
- ✓ **You're a team player**
Software developers spend a lot of time working with others to create a great solution. If you like working in teams and sharing ideas, then you'll fit in well.
- ✓ **You're an analytical and strategic thinker**
There's a lot of planning that goes into creating software programs, so if you like solving a problem by looking at the big picture as well as thinking through the detailed steps along the way, you'll enjoy developing software.
- ✓ **You're self-motivated**
Creating software can be tricky, meticulous work, so it's important that you are patient and don't give up if you don't succeed the first time. If you are determined to finish what you start, you'll have the temperament to do well in a career in software development.



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