

ENVISIONING MY FUTURE

A 2000 word essay to clarify and reinforce my career goals

John Santias
s5055348

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Introduction

The IT industry and workforce

The IT industry is now one of the strongest and biggest industry. IT, or information technology, increased production more than any other economic side or industry, especially in the developing world. The world of IT is a key driver of growth in the economy and it has a role in producing technology goods and services from its producer to the customer. The industry, consisting of vendors, distributors, solution providers, cloud service providers, VARs and MSPs and more, work together to support and supply customer's needs. It has been estimated that up to two-thirds of IT services and products from industry have been sold to U.S. businesses (*IT Industry, Information Technology Industry | Economy Watch, 2016*). There are two kinds of workforce in IT. The first kind is employment in the IT sector. On average, a U.S. IT sector employs about 5.9 million workers in technical, ones who are software developers, network administrators, etc (*IT Industry, Information Technology Industry | Economy Watch, 2016*). Also workers in non-technical, ones who work in finance and marketing positions. The second kind of workforce in IT are occupations in spanning all industry sectors. IT continues to grow and create more jobs. At the end of 2016, it has been expected to record the highest IT job growth rate in more than a decade.

Overview

In the future, there will be more job opportunities in the IT world. However, employment will be hard because companies look for workers who are more updated, more skilled and have knowledge of the technology that is out today. With more investigation, we explore the difficulty of employment in this industry, from it's history of employment, now and future. A second investigation in what companies want from an IT employee and lastly, the future industry. Whether the industry is going to get bigger or smaller. The investigation of this industry is important to giving more knowledge to myself, an undergraduate student who is looking into being part of the IT world after university. It will help myself know more of what the world of IT wants which can help improve what I do and what I have to do to become the best information technology graduate. The best is what a company wants. My ideal future career is to place myself in a company and help myself and the company grow bigger and better with production efficiency. Aiming to work at a big company to gain loads of experience then help smaller companies get bigger and maybe, later on, start my own business.

The world of IT

Employment

From the past 20 years, the growth of employment in information technology systems have grown rapidly. Especially from 1990 to 2001, the employment rate grew quickly because of the many businesses that invested in the development of computer systems. The employment in the industry then increased between 2001 and 2011 by 18 percent, or 232,300 jobs (*IT Industry Outlook, 2016*). However, there were some difficulties in the IT world especially when the dot-com crash happened in 2000. This crash lead to losing money and jobs in the IT industry and declining people from employment between 2001 to 2003 (*IT Industry Outlook, 2016*). Since 2003, the employment rate grew to 37 percent. From 2014 to 2024, the employment in the information technology industry has been projected to grow 12 percent. The industry is growing faster than other industries and it is expected to add about 490,000 new jobs by 2024 (*IT Industry Outlook, 2016*). The future will provide more job opportunities. This is an advantage to myself helping me to find and get a job.

The importance of collecting and storing big data, cloud computer, everyday items connecting to the internet and the continued demand for mobile computing are things people want to keep improving. This is what the industry tries to improve and it is what makes them grow. The reason for the projected growth is due to many areas in the information technology service. One particular area is cloud computing, where companies are trying to improve the storing of data into the cloud. This cloud computing is important and I will have to learn more and improve this new technology. One way to replace computer parts like memory or software, storage is using cloud computing (*IT Industry Outlook, 2016*). This kind of research in IT might replace all storage, memory and software in the future and when it gets fully developed, it's functional, everyone uses it. The IT world may want to look into something new, another way of storing memory. This can create more job opportunities. By using cloud services, these things can be accessed over the internet instead.

Also in recent years, the amount of hackers had grown and it is known to continue. These cyber attacks have also continued to threaten information systems. Recent studies also have shown that amount of cyber attacks on private businesses etc. increased in between 2009 and 2011 (*Computer and Information Technology, 2016*). The common solutions to these attacks are firewalls, antivirus programs, and other hacking detection systems. The demand for security software help businesses cover their properties and data. This is another area which helps the IT industry grow. Cyber security and cloud computing are the two areas expected to grow employment in information technology and related services such as mobile networking, healthcare IT and the management of data may also help the growth of IT over the next few years (*Computer and Information Technology, 2016*). There will be more jobs in the future as the IT world wants to keep developing technology. Employment, so far, may not be hard. To be employed, I will have to learn more about cloud computing and software so

I can develop it and make it greater. Doing great will make the company greater. It's what a company would want to keep you employed.

What companies want from an employee

Information employers say it is hard to find good people and those looking for jobs have a hard time looking to get hired. Employers and job hunters both have problems when the leaders of IT must hire staff to projects quickly which most of the time requires the special set of skills that job hunters don't have. With this, the hirers see the talents in the IT market are low and poor. However, with the organization having a spot in the job empty for a while, it will hurt the team morale and business results. This could change if the organization hire managers that are more realistic and creative and job seekers have more knowledge of the market (Csorny, L. 2016). With this another important way of getting a job. I will have to get a great set of skills in which the company would like to use from me.

Companies want employees who have been trained with knowledge, skills and attitudes as it is required so they can do their jobs safely and well. This is a fact whether the employees are managers, technicians, clerks or accountants (Csorny, L. 2016). Whether the employees work on the factory floor, the store or in the office. New employees need training before they are effective within a company (*The IT Talent Shortage Debate – Information Week, 2016*). Sometimes current existing employees also require re-training as the jobs and companies change at times and also new technology is introduced. It has been found that IT employees found their knowledge outdated in about a year or two (*Information Technology and Society, 2016*). Training and updating workers is important for companies as it really helps them to move forward, get bigger and increase sales (*Information Technology and Society, 2016*). The update of training the company's employees improves the products, services, and relationships for and with the customers. It even makes the image of the company greater and push greater chances of sales in the future (Csorny, L. 2016). With more job opportunities in the future, employment will be hard as companies do look for workers with more updated skills and more knowledge. So it is important that when I get employed and start getting trained, is that I really understand, learn great, keep improve myself and keep learning more to be one of the people that are greatly wanted.

The future industry

Technology today, is pulling every industry which results to business leaders looking in to start in IT. Information Technology now isn't more about the department handling hardware, business software, and networks, IT is now an important industry as more people rely on technology every day. As the CEO of Brilliant said, "Technology is an investment for companies and it can allow businesses to scale without adding fixed costs. Businesses can get a return on investment through investing technology." (White, S. 2016).

Most of the workers today have been part of information technology for a decade or even more. They have even become more skilled with also a lot of experience (Hiner, J. 2011). This is the kind of person I will try to be, lots of experience and skillful. The software has hugely improved in the last decade by moving the traditional software to the web or into internal servers via the web browser (Hiner, J. 2011). The IT jobs of the future will be consultants, project managers, and developers (Hiner, J. 2011). Firstly, consultants would be needed as an industry does not want too many IT professional staff, they would want to keep a number of workers as few as possible because IT professionals are quite expensive. Secondly, ones that are still part of a company for quite a while will become project managers. Most of the employees won't be part of the centralized information technology department, but are spread out in departments and business units. Project managers help the managers and leaders of the company make good decisions. They also communicate with stakeholders for tech solutions, gather business requirements and look for new technologies which can help the business grow. Lastly, developers, this area of IT is where the largest number of jobs are moving into being a programmer, coder or developer. Information technology used to be about releasing software and hardware (*The future of information technology*, 2016). However, IT is growing more of about web-based apps expecting to work smoothly. Also mobile apps. Technology in the next five to ten years will be very different. Technology will have great improvements and its integration will expand especially computing, video, audio, communications, handwriting, speech recognition, everything technology related. With more job opportunities, getting employed will get harder (*Anticipating the Future of the IT Industry*, 2016). There are other fields in IT that I could join, being a consultant, project manager or developer. To be in a field I would have to gain experience.

Conclusion

Technology in the next five to ten years will be very different. Technology will have great improvements and its integration will expand especially computing, video, audio, communications, handwriting, speech recognition, everything technology related. Through this investigation, it has been found that there will be more job opportunities in the future because the world today keeps looking into technology. Companies would want to keep developing technology for many consumers. Also with getting employed, the industry today, look more into developing software that helps block cyber attacks and creating a new way of storing devices, software, and memory through internet cloud computing. Once these solutions have been fixed, companies will keep looking into developing new and current things. To be employed, I will need to learn about cloud computing and software so I can keep developing it, making it better, or even come up with new great ideas that companies would want to look into and develop. Doing great will make the company greater. It's what a company would want to keep you employed. Also, when starting in the IT world, I will have to learn hard and keep improving myself to be one of the most valuable employees. To keep up to the company's standard, I will need to keep updating my knowledge and skills which they will want to use. With the future industry, there are other fields that I can join with being a consultant, project manager, developer or more. However, with the skills I have so far, an undergraduate student, I only know about developing websites, apps etc. So far, I'm interested in going in the developing field because of the great confidence and passion for developing things. It is a talent that I could excel. In the future, there will be more job opportunities in the IT world. However, employment will be hard because companies look for workers who are more updated, more skilled and have knowledge of the technology that is out today. With my ideal future, it would be very hard to place myself firstly in a popular big company. I would need a large amount of experience and a great set of skills. So better of maybe starting small and stay and learn as much as I can whilst the company gets bigger and then join bigger companies or starting my own business.

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