

TOP DEVELOPERS MINDSET

All About the 5 Things You Don't Know



INTRODUCTION

Coding and programming are becoming more and more popular as technology advances and computer-based devices become more widespread. With this rise in popularity has come a dramatic increase in the demand for experienced programmers and developers. A lot of people with no computer science background are asking the question '*What does a web developer do?*', with the aim of learning the necessary skills and becoming a developer. Entry level developer jobs are rather abundant, which makes learning programming in your spare time an attractive prospect, especially if you are looking for a career change.

Due to the increasing number of people inquiring about entry-level front-end developer jobs, we have decided to put this guide together to help you understand what is required to become a developer. We will begin by looking at what web developers, and specifically, front-end developers do. We will look at how and why you should consider taking up front-end web development, and what skills you need to become a web developer.

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1 WEB DEVELOPERS - WHAT DO THEY DO?

Web developers are responsible for everything you see and use on every website you visit. They also handle the way data is stored and develop security features to ensure user safety.

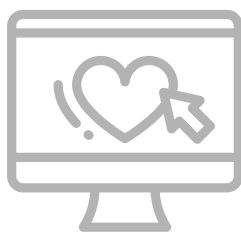
There are three web developer types:

1. **Front-end developers** are sometimes called client-side developers and are responsible for creating the layout, features and appearance of a site or application. Anything that a user interacts with directly is built by front-end developers.

2. **Back-end developers** build the systems which allow the designs of front-end developers to operate. If this site was a car, front-end developers would design the seats, the steering wheel and the pedals. Back-end developers would build the engine.

3. **Full-stack developers** are able to do both. They are equally skilled as back and front-end developers. Full-stack developers are highly-respected (and highly paid!) members of the development community. Having skills in client-side design and back-end operations makes them very popular with employers, as you could probably guess!





2 FINDING YOUR PASSION

Grandma's always telling me that once I find the right job, I'll never work another day in my life. Web development is no different. When you choose the area that's right for you, you won't feel like you're working at all! So, how do you decide?

Answering these questions will help you make your decision:

1. **What are you good at and what do you enjoy?** Web development isn't easy, so work out what you're good at and use it. Once you know what you're good at, ask yourself if you enjoy it. If the answer is yes, then that's a great start! If you're creative, then front-end development may be the specialism for you. If you're a math nerd, perhaps working with back-end databases would be more suitable.

2. **What's your favorite website and why?** Think about a site you love using. What do you love about it? The way it looks? Maybe you just love how it handles user traffic? The areas of web development that you admire and respect are the same areas you should consider working in.

3. **What would you do differently?** Think about the features of websites that really bug you! Do you hate YouTube pop-ups? Is the layout of Twitter too bland? Choosing the things that you'd most like to change about the sites and apps you use regularly is a great way to find a specialism.

4. **What is the market missing?** Every industry has areas that don't have enough skilled staff. Find a gap in the market and fill it! Keep up to date with which skills the industry needs by checking out jobs listings on sites like Indeed or Monster. You can also talk directly with the development community on forums like Reddit and WebDeveloper.com.

When you've thought about these questions thoroughly, you'll have a good idea about whether you want to be a front or back-end developer or even both! And remember this; when you're learning how to become a web developer, use your strengths to follow your passion.



3 THE MUST-HAVE SKILLS

Finding the right place to learn is just as important as knowing what skills you need. Let's check the must-have skills you'll need as you learn how to become a web developer and where you can learn them.

We'll check out what you need to know for front-end development first:

1. **HTML and CSS:** Hypertext Markup Language and Cascading Style Sheets are the most basic tools you'll need to design a webpage. They are both markup languages which means they are sets of code that guide the way text is presented on a webpage.

2. **JavaScript (JS):** JavaScript is a programming language. It guides how a computer, site or app performs specific tasks. JavaScript is one of the most important skills you'll need when learning how to become a web developer. If coding was a rock band, then JavaScript would be the electric guitar!

3. **Content Management:** All sites have content. All content needs to be arranged and managed so it can be easily accessed by users. As a front-end developer, being able to use content management systems (CMS) is essential. Nearly two-thirds of the Internet uses WordPress as its CMS. So, if you only learn one CMS, learn WordPress.

4. **Testing and Bug Removal:** The real work starts when the coding ends! Front-end developers spend a lot of time testing code and searching for bugs. No one will care how beautiful your application is, if it doesn't work properly!

Now, let's check out what skills a top back-end developer needs and where you can learn them:

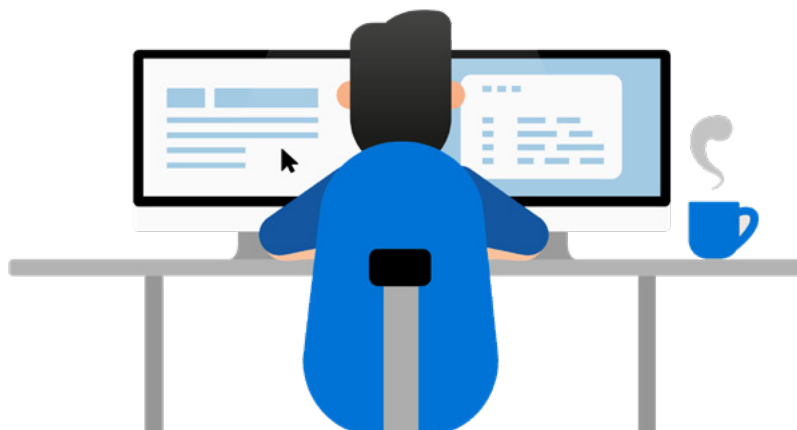
1. **Python and Ruby:** These are two of the most popular programming languages for building applications. Ruby is rated as 10th in the IEEE's Top Ten languages list. Python is rated as number 1. A strong understanding of one, or both, of these languages, is the first step towards a career in back-end development.

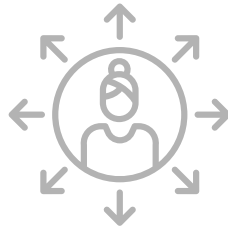
2. **PHP and PHP Frameworks:** PHP is another popular programming language and employers often look for developers with experience using it. PHP has lots of different frameworks which developers can use to make coding with PHP faster and simpler. Once you've mastered the basics of PHP, you can start using other frameworks like Zend, CakePHP and Laravel.

3. **CVS:** The Concurrent Versions System (CVS) is a programme that allows back-end developers to work on different versions of the same code. It allows programmers to experiment with code – by themselves or as part of a larger team — until a final version is decided on.

Learning key skills is the most difficult stage in the training of any self-taught programmer. The basics like HTML and CSS may only take weeks to learn, but the more complex tools can take months to learn and years to master.

As you learn how to become a web developer, you'll need to put in as much time and effort as possible. You'll only get out what you put in! Key skills are just the beginning. In the next step, I want to tell you about the additional skills you'll need to reach the top of the industry.





4 SOFT SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Training never ends when you're learning how to become a web developer. You can learn development relatively quickly but coding isn't the only thing you'll need to know. The industry changes fast so one of the most important skills a programmer can have is flexibility.

So, what does a web developer do when they're not coding? Clients, especially smaller ones, are beginning to expect the web developers they hire to have a range of soft skills. Soft skills are non-technical skills that will help a web developer to understand the businesses and organizations they work for better.

Soft skills include advertising, marketing, accounts and many more. The soft skills you'll need to learn will depend largely on what kinds of client you work for. For example, if a developer takes a job at a company like Amazon, then soft skills in logistics and customer experience would be hugely desirable.

There are many ways to learn soft skills. If you had a job before you decided to learn how to become a developer, then you probably already have some. If you're just starting out, then don't worry. A lot of companies offer on-the-job training in areas that are related to their business.

The point I'm making here is that having soft skills can be just as important to a web developer as knowing JavaScript. They will help you solve the real-world problems that your clients face and will allow you to offer a unique specialist service.



5 FIRST JOB AS A DEVELOPER

Prospective employers don't want to waste their money on someone who is untried and untested. There are plenty of entry-level developers out there who already have a decent portfolio of freelance work and projects behind them, which means that you need to take steps to make yourself stand out to prospective employers.

Some of the best things that you can do to make yourself more visible to employers and more likely to land a developer job include:

1. **Keep learning and make sure you know your stuff**
2. **Keep a portfolio**
3. **Create / build your own website**
4. **Volunteer**
5. **Take freelance jobs**

```
<?php echo  
"Hello World!"  
?>
```



FINAL WORD

Now you know the basic ins and outs of a developer. To be successful, all you need to do is practice your skills and work hard - you'll land that development job in no time. Until then, may this ebook serve as a great reminder or a list of things that you've yet to accomplish.

Good luck!

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“We don't just build websites, we build websites that SELLS”

- Christopher Dayagdag