I.T. Professional Report

Name - Noemi

Job title - Senior Software Engineer

What kind of work does the IT professional do?

I’m an engineer focused on development. I build desktop and mobile apps. Building both for iOS and Android services. I have also worked as a Tech Lead.

What kinds of people does the IT professional interact with? Are they other IT professionals? Clients? Investors? The general public?

Depends on what your role is in IT. Business Analysts and Project Managers deal with the clients, users, etc. Whereas, Developers usually only with product owners, Project managers and Tech people.

Where does the IT professional spend most of their time?

Most days are spent in in the office in front of a computer working on bug fixes and features development. This is where I get most of my work done. This can vary between my office in the city or working remotely at home with a laptop and Internet connection. The computer is vital to complete all of my necessary tasks so I will spend 95% of my time in front of it.

What aspect of their position is most challenging?

New technology is coming out every day. Evolving and adapting to these new changes is critical for an IT professional to stay current in the industry.  This can make things stressful, however, if you are keen to learn new things and take a logical approach, this can be overcome.

What is a typical day for you?

A typical day for me is, get into the office, have a stand up meeting where the team I’m involved in talk about what we are doing and projects due for the day/week, if we are stuck on something. Outside of this we also discuss what we are going to do for the day. After that, we go for coffee to take a break and then start development. After this I have lunch, then develop and work on projects. Some times there are meetings in afternoon with the product team to explain new tasks or answer technical questions. If I get any spare time I will work on personal side-projects.

How did you get into IT?

When I was young I started doing basic Microsoft courses in my spare time. Then once I started to get good at this I decided to take it to the next level and do technical high school. The course I was enrolled in was called Data Processing. After I got through technical school the next step was university undertaking a System Analyst degree. I realised I enjoyed this and was quite good at it and whilst I was studying I was accepted into an entry-level job during university as junior web developer.

Why did you get into it?

Because when I did the course, I was good at it, and my teacher encouraged me to pursue IT as a degree.

Are you happy?  
  
Yes, for the most part. It’s a job that I enjoy and an industry that I have been established in for a long time. It’s something that I have be involved since I was in high-school so it’s more like a way of life right now.  
  
Are there any downsides to your role?  
  
Yes. When working for a major client there can be a stressful element attached to it. For the most part though, if you know how to relax and think logically you can guide yourself out of most problems. Plus, I am lucky that I work with a group of colleagues who understand what I am trying to achieve and we all help each other if needed.

Do you have advice for someone looking to start in the IT field?

If you are thinking of getting into the IT field you will need to be someone who is good with logic and mathematics. Programming needs a logical approach; therefore, if you can approach a problem logically you are halfway there to tackling it. The mathematics component is calculus, which helps solve the issues surrounding bugs etc.

Would you ever leave the industry?

If I find something more interesting, then, yes. At the moment I cant find anything more that I would like to do. As a career I feel challenge every day and I feel lucky that I get to do something that I enjoy every day. Although, being the manager of a tropical island would be a good proposition.

Liam Hackett.