Career Exploration

IT Exploration

Kaden Hershberger

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The IT-Web and Software Development program teaches you programming, database design, and application development. You would learn languages like HTML, CSS, JavaScript, SQL, and C#. You’ll also learn version control and collaboration tools as part of DevOps concepts. You’ll learn cloud computing fundamentals and how to integrate AI into programming. The IT-Data and Analytics program teaches you how to build databases, craft reports, and unveil data insights. You’ll cultivate your software skills, artificial intelligence, big data, and data-specific programming languages. You will also be able to take the CompTIA Data + certification. The IT-Cybersecurity and Network Administrator program will teach you how to use technologies and equipment like firewalls, intrusion detection and prevention systems, cloud computing, anomaly identification systems, and other physical security technologies. You’ll operate systems like Microsoft Windows, Linux, and UNIX-like systems. The IT-Computer Support Specialist emphasizes interpersonal skills with a strong emphasis on communication, teamwork, ethics, and leadership. You’ll have hardware and software expertise, network maintenance, cyber security awareness, and a bit of programming and automation. The IoT Integration Specialist program will teach you the skills to build and integrate the connected systems of the future in different work environments like manufacturing, modern agriculture, health care, and civil work. It combines hands on skills with computer programming and networking.

There is overlap between these programs. All these programs require some amount of programming knowledge. Understanding different hardware and software is also something that these programs have in common. Being able to communicate and work in a team environment is something that you will learn in all of them as well. These programs also have a few differences.

The computer support specialist works a lot more with customers and being able to communicate effectively with a team than with the other programs. The cybersecurity program focuses more on the prevention side of things. Learning how to keep malware out of a computer and detection systems to find them. The web developer program dives a lot deeper into the programming side of things. You learn more about how to write code and the different languages to do so than in the other programs. Finally, the data and analytics program focuses more on interpreting data.

I am interested in learning how to create things like webpages in the web development programs. Learning specifically about different coding languages sounds interesting. I don’t think I would like how in depth they go with everything, and I would get confused about all the information. With the data analytics program, I’m interested in learning how to interpret and analyze data sets. I believe I’ll have a bit of trouble with presenting reports and data that I make. I’m not the best at presenting and I’ve never liked doing it. I’m interested in learning how to use all the different software’s that you learn on in the cybersecurity program. I’m not really interested in anything else about it though, like firewalls and detection systems. The computer support specialist program is probably one I’m the least interested in as it emphasizes a lot more on the communication aspect of things rather than the technologies side of things. I like learning about different languages and software’s, but you don’t do a whole lot with it in this program. The IoT integration specialist honestly sounds interesting, but there isn’t a whole lot of information on it. It doesn't sound like you learn a whole lot about programming specifically, but more like you learn how to connect and integrate new technology in different work areas. The hardware side of things sounds interesting to me, but I don’t think I would want such an in-person job. I’m looking forward to having a remote job some day and that doesn’t sound like one.

I believe I’ve learned the most about computer specialists. I didn’t know much about any of these paths but I learned a lot that I didn’t know before about computer support. I didn’t realize that they focused so much on the communication aspect of things. It seems like it’s something that they learn the most about how to properly communicate to customers. I also didn’t realize that there were different tiers of specialists. I thought they were all the same and had the same amount of knowledge. It was pretty surprising to me that in general they don’t really go very deep into programming and how to use different languages. Obviously the higher tier they are, the more they know; but in general, it’s not something they focus on.

The things I’ve learned haven’t influenced me too much or really changed my mind on what I want to do. I went into college already set on data analytics. If I end up going back to college to further my career in any way I would probably like to do something in web development. The things I’ve learned about it have really piqued my interest with how much they deep dive into things. I didn’t really think much about it until I had to research it and learned all about what they do.