

Lecture 01 - Intro To Class

<https://xkcd.com/353/>

Who is Prof Philip Schlump?

Can you make Money at computer science?

What it takes to be successful? Success is Easy to explain. Be willing to do what other people are unwilling to do. How this applies to you - right now. When you learn to program you are doing something that most people are unwilling to do. Programming is hard. It is the most difficult computer game ever. There is never a day that it is “easy”. It is not a “talent”. It is a “Skill” that you can learn. It is a process that you can practice and learn.

You practice and you learn to program. You learn a valuable skill. This is valuable. On average a UW graduate will make \$86,200.00 in this field. You can expect to get raises for about 6 years. An average of \$120,000.00 a year. Will you make more if you move to NYNY - yep. Will you make less in Omaha NE - yep. Cost of living is different in each location.

That is fantastic. You will not be “rich” by any means. To create “wealth” you have to move beyond a job and build a business. Consulting can pay way more than just a job. My last consulting gig was 14.5 months at \$16,000.00 a month. If you want to make more than that you need to start and run a successful business.

In a consulting business I did a contract with Time Warner. I had 23 folks that I placed with them. On average I made 41.20 an hour for 6 months on each hour of other people's work. That 6 months I made just under a million dollars. That is before tax.

I built a product company - that I sold for \$20 million. I got about 28% of that. Do you think there were hard times in building that. You bet. At one point I went out on a trip to sell the software. We had \$38.15 in the bank account. With a little over \$10k due in 2 weeks for labor. My CEO and I had not taken a pay check in 7 months. My wife and children had the flu. I returned 12 days later with a check from a customer for \$140,000.00.

After selling the product company I took 11 years off. My wife and I bought a sailboat - we raised our kids on a boat on the east coast and Caribbean.



Image (C) Philip Schlump, 2011.

How the Gig economy works

Who is me article in Time: <https://time.com/6085525/big-tech-data-centers/>

1. Jobs are never permanent. Contracts have a fixed end date. Labor laws in us say that a “Contractor” is a “temporary” only if they work for less than 18 months and then have 6 months off.
2. Burdened cost. At UW it is 1.48 - other people will have 1.52 to 1.58 is common. So you get a “job” the cost to the business is $\text{Pay(gross)} * 1.48$. 100k a year means that the business cost is 148000 a year. As a contractor you get $X + 148000$ per year - but you have to pay your own matching tax, your health insurance, your retirement etc.
3. Big businesses have lots of leverage v.s. small city organizations.
4. Cost of Replacement is very high. It costs \$25k to \$50k to hire a new person.
5. Jobs are only worth what the “kind” of a job pays. If a programmer pays 100k to 105k that is it. If you as a programmer are way better than others you still get 100k to 105k. If you want more then you have to get out of the “employee” mentality and build some form of a business.

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