MIKE TEACHES **TECH**

IT CAREERS AND PATHWAYS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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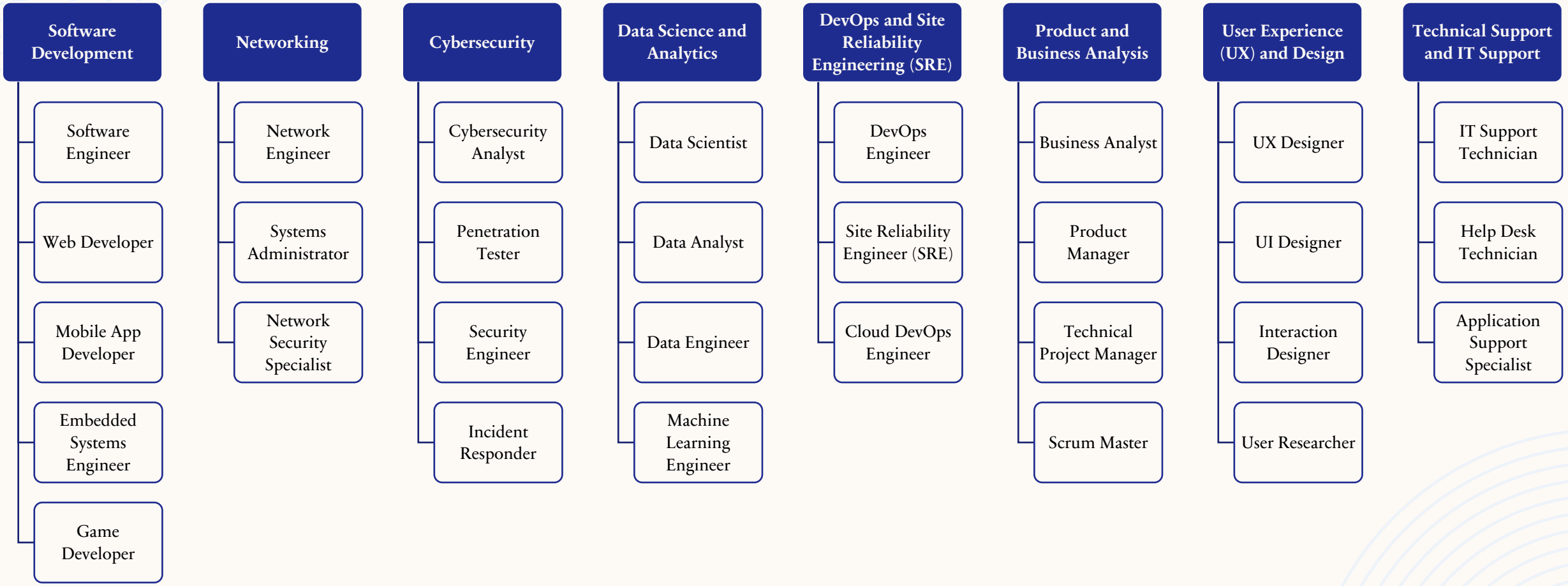

CAREERS ARE OFTEN NOT A LINEAR PATH

Non-Linear Career Progression

- Unlike traditional career paths where you might stay in one role or climb a very specific ladder, IT careers often involve lateral moves. You can start in software development and move into business analysis, or begin in network engineering and transition into cybersecurity or DevOps.
- **Example**: A software developer might shift to a product manager role after gaining insight into customer needs and business strategy.

The Value of Versatility

- The tech industry highly values adaptability and the ability to work in different areas of expertise. This opens doors for new opportunities and helps you avoid being pigeonholed into one career track.
- **Transferable Skills**: Skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and technical knowledge can apply across roles like development, system administration, and project management.

Finding the Right Fit

- With so many career options available, understanding which role suits your strengths and interests is important. Tools like **online career quizzes** can help you explore roles you may not have considered before.
- **Try It Out**: The BCS Tech Career Quiz helps students identify which tech role might be a good fit for their personality and skills. By answering a few questions, you can discover roles that align with your strengths and interests.

THE UNIVERSITY PATHWAY

Standard IT-Related Degrees

These degrees provide a solid foundation in IT, software engineering, and computer science. They cover programming, algorithms, data structures, systems, and more.

UNSW:
- **Bachelor of Computer Science**
- **Bachelor of Software Engineering (Honours)**

USYD:
- **Bachelor of Advanced Computing**
- **Bachelor of Computer Science**

UTS:
- **Bachelor of Science in Information Technology**
- **Bachelor of Engineering (Software Engineering)**

Double Degrees for Greater Flexibility

Double degrees allow students to combine IT with other areas of interest, offering flexibility and the ability to capitalize on niche markets. These are ideal for students who are unsure about committing fully to an IT career or who want to broaden their career options.

UNSW:
- **Bachelor of Computer Science/Commerce**
- **Bachelor of Computer Science/Arts**

USYD:
- **Bachelor of Advanced Computing/Commerce**
- **Bachelor of Advanced Computing/Arts**

UTS:
- **Bachelor of Science in IT/Business**
- **Bachelor of Engineering (Software Engineering)/Business**

Specialized Degrees and Scholarship Programs

These programs often offer industry placements, unique opportunities, or are designed for high-achieving students seeking a fast track into IT leadership roles.

UTS BIT (Bachelor of Information Technology):
- A prestigious industry-linked scholarship program that includes two 6-month internships and close partnerships with leading companies. It's designed for students with strong academic and leadership potential.

UNSW Co-op Program (Bachelor of Computer Science or Software Engineering):
- This program offers a combination of academic study and industry experience, including paid internships. It's highly competitive and provides invaluable work experience during the degree.

GET PAID TO STUDY

Transport for NSW Cadetship Program:

- The **Transport for NSW Cadetship** offers university students the opportunity to gain paid work experience while studying. The program is open to students studying IT, engineering, and related fields.

Department of Defence: Defence Civilian Undergraduate Sponsorship (DCUS):

- The **DCUS** program sponsors students studying IT, engineering, science, and similar disciplines. Students are provided with financial support and offered guaranteed employment upon graduation.

Telstra Graduate and Scholarship Programs:

- Telstra offers various scholarships and internships for students studying IT, computer science, or related disciplines. Their programs provide financial assistance and the opportunity to work with cutting-edge technology.

NSW Government Graduate Program (Various Departments):

- Several NSW government departments, including Transport for NSW, the Department of Customer Service, and Health NSW, offer scholarships and cadetships for students pursuing technology-related degrees.

Commonwealth Bank IT Cadet Program:

- The Commonwealth Bank offers IT cadetships that allow students to study while gaining part-time work experience within the bank's technology team.

Ausgrid Apprenticeship and Cadetship Programs:

- Ausgrid offers cadetships for students pursuing IT, engineering, and similar fields. These programs include financial support and hands-on technical training.

THE VOCATIONAL PATHWAY (TAFE)

- **Certificate IV in Information Technology**: Covers foundational IT skills, such as network security, programming, and technical support.
- **Diploma of Information Technology**: Provides more in-depth knowledge and skills in areas like cybersecurity, software development, and cloud computing.
- **Advanced Diploma of Information Technology**: Designed for those seeking advanced skills in network security, IT management, or systems administration.
- **Microsoft Traineeship Program:** provides a unique combination of work experience and formal education. Participants earn a **Certificate IV in IT** while working with Microsoft partners, gaining practical experience in technical roles like IT support, cloud services, and system administration. Also provided is a pathway into full-time employment with Microsoft or its partners upon completion.

Job-Ready Skills

Shorter Durations

Industry Links

SETTING YOURSELF APART

GitHub Portfolio:

- Host your personal projects on GitHub. Whether it's a small script or a full application, showing the world what you've built is key to demonstrating your capabilities.
- **Tip**: Keep your repositories well-documented with clear README files and commit history.

Contribute to Open Source:

- Collaborating on open-source projects shows that you're willing to work with others and are engaged with the broader developer community. It's a great way to gain experience and be noticed by other professionals.
- **Tip**: Start by contributing to smaller projects or fixing bugs to build your confidence.

Develop Interests Outside of IT:

- Break the "one-dimensional IT person" stereotype. Build your communications skills and be passionate about a cause. Consider sports, art, or even volunteering for initiatives that benefit your community like the SES (State Emergency Service).
- **Tip**: Share these experiences in interviews or applications to highlight your well-roundedness and personal growth.

CERTIFICATIONS & SOCIAL NETWORKING

Why Certifications Matter:

- **Skill Development:** Certifications demonstrate your expertise in specific areas of IT, making you more attractive to employers.

- **Networking Opportunities:** Many certification programs have built-in communities where you can connect with other learners, instructors, and professionals. These networks can open doors to internships, jobs, and collaborations.

Some certifications/resources
intended for high school students:

- ✓ **CompTIA IT Fundamentals** (ITF+)
- ✓ **Cisco Networking Academy**
- ✓ **AWS Educate**

Q&A

THANK YOU & FAREWELL!

You can find me at:
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