

## Personal SWOT Analysis: My Switching Careers Journey

### ANALYSIS OBJECTIVES

To switch careers from teaching to software development by 2027.

### INTERNAL FACTORS

#### STRENGTHS +

- ⊕ **Independent learner:** One of my significant strengths is my ability to learn independently. This has enabled me to enroll in various self-paced learning programs outside of the University of the People to enhance my coding skills. I have actively engaged with platforms like Code Academy, London App Brewery, Odin Project, and CodeGym University to train as a full-stack and Java developer. This self-motivation and commitment to continuous learning will be crucial as I transition into the software development field.
- ⊕ **Creativity:** My creative ability allows me to design unique programs to solve specific problems. This strength will be invaluable in software development, where innovative thinking is often required to develop efficient and effective solutions.
- ⊕ **Tech-Savvy:** Colleagues recognize me as tech-savvy, especially in integrating ICT into teaching. This skill set is directly transferable to software development, providing a solid foundation for understanding and applying new technologies.

#### WEAKNESSES -

- ⊕ **Limited time for study:** Balancing full-time work and studying is a significant challenge. I can only dedicate 3-4 hours daily to reading, completing assignments, and engaging in self-paced learning. This limited time can slow down my progress in acquiring the necessary skills for a career switch.
- ⊕ **Perception of inexperience:** Despite my tech-savvy nature, others might view my transition from teaching to software development skeptically due to my perceived inexperience in the new field. This perception could affect my confidence and the opportunities available to me.

### EXTERNAL FACTORS

#### OPPORTUNITIES +

- ⊕ **High demand for software developers:** The shift from brick-and-mortar businesses to digital platforms has created a high demand for software developers. According to the 2019 World Bank Group Flagship Report, the rapid scaling and lower costs associated with digital businesses, as seen with companies like Alibaba in China, Flipkart in India, and Jumia in Nigeria, revealed a promising future for numerous job opportunities in the tech industry.
- ⊕ **Learning platforms and certifications:** The availability of numerous online learning platforms and certification programs provides an opportunity to gain the necessary skills and credentials to enter

#### THREATS -

- ⊕ **Advancement of artificial intelligence (AI):** The development of AI tools like ChatGPT-4 and Google Bard, capable of performing programming tasks, poses a potential threat to job security in software development. These AI tools can generate code snippets and automate repetitive tasks (Kuhail et al., 2023), potentially reducing the demand for human developers.
- ⊕ **Competitive job market:** The software development field is highly competitive, with many individuals transitioning from various backgrounds. This competition can make it challenging to secure a position, especially as a newcomer without significant experience.

the software development field. Engaging with these resources can significantly boost my employability.

- ➡ **Networking with tech communities:** Joining tech communities and forums can provide networking opportunities, mentorship, and exposure to the latest trends and best practices in software development. So far, I have joined DevPost, Code Academy, and Odin Project forums. On the same note, the availability of resource persons already in the tech field who I have started developing a network with to use as my mentors to guide me through this journey to ensure I do not go astray and always remain on top of the game in this dynamic tech field. I believe that interacting with these communities and the resource persons will help bridge the gap between my current knowledge and industry expectations.

#### ➡ **Keeping up with rapid technological changes:**

The fast-paced nature of technology means that software developers must continuously learn and adapt to new tools and languages. Keeping up with these changes can be demanding, especially when balancing other responsibilities like my case where I need to balance work, academic, and family responsibilities.

## REFLECTION

### Strengths:

- ➡ Recognizing my strengths has been enlightening. My ability to learn independently and my creativity are essential assets that will serve me well in software development. Additionally, being tech-savvy gives me a head start in understanding and applying new technologies. I plan to leverage these strengths by continuing my education through online platforms and actively seeking out projects that allow me to apply my creativity in solving real-world problems.

### Weaknesses:

- ➡ Acknowledging my weaknesses is crucial for developing a realistic plan for career transition. The limited time I have for study due to my full-time job is a significant hurdle. To address this, I need to optimize my study time and possibly adjust my work schedule to create more study time. Understanding that others might perceive my transition skeptically, I need to build a strong portfolio to demonstrate my skills and competencies in software development. Already the Java programming course I am doing with CodeGym University will help me have 10 industrial-based projects to add to my portfolio. I am targeting around 15-20 projects by the end of 2026 that I will add to my portfolio.

### Opportunities:

- ➡ The high demand for software developers and the availability of numerous online learning platforms are encouraging. I plan to take full advantage of these opportunities by completing relevant certifications and participating in tech communities. Networking with those already in the tech field, which I have already started, will be essential for learning and finding job opportunities. The tech industry's growth offers a promising future, and aligning my learning with market demands will be key.

### Threats:

- ➡ The potential threat posed by AI advancements is a reality I must consider. To mitigate this, I will focus on developing skills that are less likely to be automated and stay updated on AI trends to understand how to complement AI tools rather than compete with them. The competitive job market requires me to stand out through continuous learning and skill enhancement.