

REFLECTION:

BLOCKCHAIN DEVELOPMENT: THE ULTIMATE CRASH COURSE

As an IT student, I had the privilege of attending a captivating presentation by Mr. Mark Hugh Neri, a guest speaker who shared his insights on blockchain technology and its myriad applications. The discussion revolved around the challenges that recent IT graduates like me might encounter in the ever-evolving tech industry, such as fierce competition, skill disparities, and a lack of practical experience. Throughout his talk, Mr. Neri underlined the crucial importance of cultivating a broad knowledge base and continuously expanding and honing our skills to thrive in this dynamic field.

One of the central themes of Mr. Neri's presentation was the concept of blockchain technology being at the "bleeding edge" of the tech landscape. He illuminated the audience on the manifold advantages of blockchain, from the revolutionary world of cryptocurrencies to the endless possibilities it offers to data science enthusiasts. Blockchain's reach is vast, and it's no wonder it's often regarded as a technological game-changer. A fascinating aspect he touched upon was the exceptional earning potential that blockchain developers can enjoy, with an average annual salary of a whopping \$133,000. For aspiring IT professionals like me, this is undoubtedly a tantalizing prospect.

Intriguingly, Mr. Neri also shed light on the diverse employment opportunities within the realm of blockchain technology. Contrary to popular belief, these opportunities extend beyond coding and programming. Roles like DAPP Developer, Smart Contracts Developer, and Protocol Developer are some non-technical positions that beckon us. Smart contracts, specifically mentioned as being coded in Rust, were emphasized as being relatively easy to grasp, with convenient software development kits (SDKs) that cater to developers at different proficiency levels. Additionally, he introduced us to the world of NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens), which open up the realm of possibilities for digital artists to create and showcase their work on the blockchain, ultimately generating a source of income.

For someone like me, still navigating the winding path of academia, Mr. Neri's presentation was immensely informative and eye-opening. The talk illuminated the potential of blockchain technology as an avenue to explore post-graduation. The notion of working within this revolutionary field, both from a technical and non-technical perspective, is undeniably tantalizing. The knowledge shared in the presentation not only broadened my horizons but also planted the seeds of aspiration, urging me to delve deeper into the world of blockchain. Moreover, the significant income figures attached to blockchain-related roles act as a tangible motivation to excel in my studies and strive for excellence in this field.

In conclusion, Mr. Mark Hugh Neri's discourse on blockchain technology was a remarkable learning experience. The revelation of the opportunities, the financial prospects, and the sheer breadth of blockchain's applicability has left a profound impression on me. It has underscored the

importance of being adaptable, resourceful, and continually updating my skill set. As an aspiring IT professional, I'm excited to embark on the journey of exploring the "bleeding edge" of technology, fully aware of the rich rewards and challenges that lie ahead. The talk has ignited my passion for blockchain technology, and I look forward to applying the knowledge gained to carve a promising path for myself after graduation.