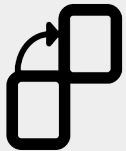
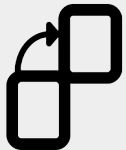


The Hacker Mentality: Unlocking a Career In Computer Science



Computer Science

- Broadly Speaking...it's a broad career field!
 - Software Engineering – Writing code that drives computers, fixing it, securing it
 - IT & Systems Administration – Managing systems, networks, helping users
 - Cybersecurity – Making sure only the right people have access to stuff, and breaking stuff (so it can be better secured)
- There's tons of overlap between these
- Let's talk about my path, and how YOU can get there



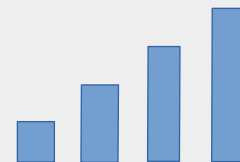
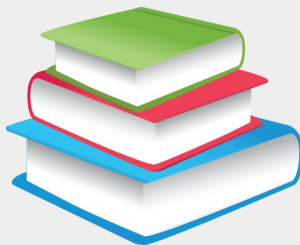
What I Do

- Software Engineer at Microsoft (Pittsburgh)
 - Day to Day, I write code for a cloud storage product
 - Help my teammates manage code, debugging, and resources
- Tech educator at chaintuts
 - I create free and open content about cybersecurity, cryptography, digital currencies, computer science topics
- Volunteer at the Cryptocurrency Certification Consortium (C4)
 - I help educate people about digital currencies and security
- Outside of work – usually find me doing something active or learning something new



How Did I Get There?

- Self taught development in HS – coding projects with books & online resources
- Underwent an IT work study – working at Derry HS and other clients – learned a LOT on the job
- Went to Saint Vincent and got my Bachelor's in Computing & Information Sciences
- Met a company rep looking for interns at a ski shop job
- Joined Avere Systems → Microsoft post graduation
- Constantly learning on the job and outside it (for fun)



Why I LOVE What I Do

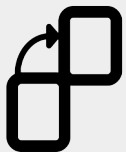
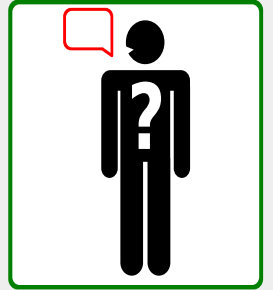


- I love creative problem solving – coding is half art and half science – no two engineers will solve a problem the same exact way
- Love self-driven learning and teaching – there's fun in facing challenges
- It's flexible – WFH, neurodivergent friendly, and broad
- It's accessible! There's a LOT of ways to get involved in CS
- It has a huge impact – computing makes information, communication, security, and privacy accessible



Some Possible Paths...and some Encouragement

- Self-directed learning – books, websites, YouTube videos, and more.
- Side Projects – Electronics, Code Demos, Home Labs, Personal Security & Hacking
- Formal Education – GLSD classes, Comp Sci Bachelors or Associates, Bootcamps
- Work Study – Help Desk, etc.
- Networking. Talk to those with similar interests



How To Succeed

- CS Careers really aren't about just knowing the information
- They're about knowing *how* to find information
- It's constantly evolving, and it's a creative field as much as it is technical
- **IMO, those that succeed are those that are *curious* first and foremost. They bring that hacker mentality to build things, break things, and make technology better.**



Q&A - Ask Me Anything!

(Also grab my contact info)

