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I see 25-year-old developers being offered crazy salaries, like \$150 - 200 k, in such companies as Google, Facebook, Apple, etc. How can I become highly skilled to qualify for such offers, if I have no formal education but am a web developer?



Fae Stark, Content Marketing Manager at Virtocommerce Answered Fri

As crazy as those Salaries sound – they're definitely true. The average software engineer at Google @makes around \$150K, plus another \$100k in equity. It's similar at Apple @and even higher at Facebook.

But the engineers who are making this type of salary either had the benefit of a computer science degree, a lot of experience, or both.

That doesn't mean that you cannot do it. You just have to approach it thoughtfully and carefully. Here's the plan that I would suggest.

1. Figure out what skills are in demand at whatever company you want to work for

From the link above we see that Google is looking for software engineers that are skilled in Java, C++, Python, and Javascript.

Another "hack" is to look at the job postings that Google puts out. See what kind of languages and skills they're looking for. That will give you the blueprint of what you need to focus on learning.

2. Develop the skills that you need

The good news is that we live in the age of the internet – which means that you have access to all the information that you could possibly want. A great way to learn about algorithms, languages, or whatever else is through online courses.

Companies like Udacity $\[\]$, CodeAcademy $\[\]$, Coursera $\[\]$, and Skillcrush $\[\]$ all offer great online learning options. If you want a more immersive experience, you might consider attending a bootcamp like Lambda School $\[\]$ or FullStack Academy $\[\]$.

Figure out what option is best for you. The important thing is that you actively work to grow your skill set in order to fill the company's requirements.

3. Get some Practical Experience

Pick a project and create it. Post it up on Github ♂ so others can see your work. It's helpful to have a "portfolio" so you can prove that you have hands-on experience working on complex projects.

4. Get some Social Exposure

Start attending and participating in hackathons and codeathons. There are two important benefits to doing this.

The first is that it allows you to continue to get your hands dirty and work on what you've been learning.

But the second, more important reason, is the social exposure and networking.

Upvote | 17 | ling side by side with other engineers. Some will be look fig for work like yourself, but many others will be working at the very companies that you want to work for. (Or if they don't, they'll know someone who does).

Make friends and show them that you are good at what you do. Companies like Google and Facebook are overwhelmed with applicants, so they put huge stock into recommendations from their current employees.

Getting a current engineer to recommend you to the HR department is the easiest way to "fast-track" to an interview.





