Notes on my career

Going to try and put together a cohesive narrative from collected thoughts on this

80,000 hours says you're dream job is [1]:

- Work your good at
- Work that helps others
- Supportive conditions

Focus on the career game in the sense of what you're learning, or what winning the game might look like rather than some explicit position.

What I would like from my career

some sort of checklist

- Some element of a never ending skill development or learning. Something to gain expertise in.

    - Aiming to be the best in the world at what you do [2].
    - Make me valuable in some area (follows from prior).

- A work environment that allows periods to do deep work and 'system 2' thinking.
- Works in some way with foundational things and in turn, foundational problems, e.g. telecommunications.
- Produce useful output towards a worthy goal (follows from previous).
- Work with like minded people.
- Income.

What I shouldn't look for in my career

- It to be the ultimate answer to all my problems in life.
- Satisfy curiosities all the time (sometimes I'll enjoy what I'm doing outside of work more than work, thats OK).
- To offer all social interaction.
- There's hobbies and work, it's important to get a balance between the two. Taking time to be good at hobbies too is important.

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[1] https://80000hours.org/career-guide/ * https://waitbutwhy.com/2018/04/picking-career.html * https://www.iwillteachyoutoberich.com/following-your-passion-is-bad-strategy/.
[2] https://blog.samaltman.com/the-days-are-long-but-the-decades-are-short

- Work can be work for periods of time, it might not always be enjoyable. As long as I can constantly identify with above checklist.

Skills I hope to develop

Categories of transferable skill, knowledge and personality traits [3]

Transferable Skills

- Model thinking: Building models, not products [4]

Knowledge

- A deeper understanding of a core technology, for example, power electronics or telecoms.

Personality Traits

Metrics for measuring progress in this skill development [5]

Skills I have

What are 5 achievements I'm proud of and try and identify patterns between them.

Transferable Skills

- Curiosity: Proven interest in learning what I want to learn.
- Time management:

Knowledge

Personality Traits

- Morally motivated.

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[3] https://80000hours.org/career-guide/career-capital/
[4] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEBI0vF45ic
[5] https://blog.samaltman.com/the-days-are-long-but-the-decades-are-short

Personal Aims (general)

- I want to be part of contributing to science. (Doesn't necessarily have to be with work).
- I would like to be able to do something worthwhile with my job in terms of learning that might be difficult to do as a hobby, or that I wouldn't have the discipline to be good at casually.
- I would like to do something with my hands?

Plan

- Pick a career game, or lifestyle I want to live.
- Figure out what skills are needed to get there.
- Pick jobs that hone that skill.

Research suggests that at least a decade is needed to get good at a skill [6]. This is similar to Learning DNS in ten years. Where most of the time you're doing other stuff, with sporadic burst to learn. And that's OK.

Work knowledge tests to determine if some pathway is something I like more [7]. This is similar to PG's do you like the idea of being a scientist or actually the day to day of it.

Landscape

Using the WE report to evaluate what is needed from a worker. This is based on the notion of doing something useful, which necessarily follows from what is demanded

Skills

Core skills required by workers in 2023 [8]:

- Analytical thinking
- Creative thinking
- Resilience, flexibility and agility
- Motivation and self-awareness
- Curiosity and lifelong learning
- Technological literacy

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[6]https://80000hours.org/career-guide/career-capital/
[7]https://80000hours.org/career-guide/personal-fit/#why-self-reflection-going-with-your-gut-and-career-tests-dont-work
[8]https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs_2023.pdf

Exercise

- What do I feel is the most pressing problem in the world?

  – Economic inequality.
  – The utilisation of the vast demographic switch thats about to take place. Over the next 50 years.

- What are areas contributing towards solutions to this problem?
- Do I have anyone I'm trying to model myself on?
- What are my current options for next steps?

  – If I couldn't take any of these what would i do?
  – How do i perform simple tests on which ones I think I'd like?

Sources