Topic: Discuss the importance of a postgraduate degree in the Computer Science field.
By: Emmanuel Eshun-Davies, November 2021

My field of study is Computer Science and in my 10years+ on the field, I have mainly worked as a developer, technical support person and a consultant. There have been a few things in between but these have been the main activities that come with all my experiences. I am currently pursuing a master's degree in my field of study. I intend to earn a PhD in computer science then perhaps study other related subjects in the sciences.

Computer Science like many other professions can be self-studied using all the several high-quality resources spread across the internet. Trails of practical knowledge, lessons and guides seem to have been left all around by persons who intend to change the world through the spread of knowledge at little to no cost. Paying close attention to what it means to earn a skill, one would conclude that what really makes one good at anything is not their presence or absence in a lecture hall neither is it natural for anyone to be born or evolve into any kind of professional. Rather, skill, no matter the source, comes through a willingness to continually, study, practice and "learn from those who have achieved". (Apostle Paul (AD65) Hebrews 6:12, The Holy Bible. Authorized King James Version, Cambridge UP, 2004.). Narrowing down to the subject of Computer Science, anyone in the field would conclude that computer science is more of a hands-on doing profession and so requires more practicality.

Unarguably, wisdom precedes knowledge since wisdom is the practical use of knowledge and in our case, the knowledge earned is not enough without a level of proven practicality. it is even more evidential of how companies are more interested in skilled people with practical experiences ones who simply have a degree with no experiences. (Peter H. C. ILR Review Vol. 68, No. 2 (March 2015), pp. 251-290 (40 pages) Published By: Sage Publications, Inc.)

In as much as all these may be solid enough to get comfortable as a computer Scientist with a Barchelor's degree or a self-taught computer scientist, it is important to understand that we are in a fast-paced world where everything is a competition. When everyone has the same or similar knowledge and experience, other qualities are considered. An employer is most likely to, out of 10 candidates with same experiences and skills, employ the person with a master's degree since that provides an extra value to the company. The presence of a solid balance between academic theories and practical studies sets you on a better path into your career. (Donald Knuth, quoted in: Arturo Gonzalez-Gutierrez (2007) Minimum-length Corridors: Complexity and Approximations. p. 99.)

Looking beyond the basics of getting a good job and high salary, A postgraduate course in Computer Science prepares you for change. "People think that computer science is the art of geniuses, but the actual reality is the opposite, just many people doing things that build on each other, like a wall of mini stones." (Donald Knuth) It basically sets you on a path of research and understanding that comes with enough practical methods to understanding what already exists and what more could be done about it. It in a way, it moves the wheel from being re-invented to being improved upon.

In my personal experience of working with people of different qualification, I have seen the above to be true. Of course, there are people who after any study at all

barely show any resemblance to anyone who has been in a study, but this only confirms how it's about a person's willingness to learn than to just be present.

In conclusion, I believe a postgraduate is a great advantage to society when we have people who understand enough to cause change at the right places. In a world where technology has been over simplified and the core hidden behind frameworks, having people who pay attention to the low-level languages and core parts of system preserves the functionality of the simplified system. Behind every simplified system or device are sets of complicated functions and designs that provide the ability of simplicity. Once the latter part is ignored or taken for granted, we know the future can shut down with less ability to fix it.

It is my expectation that through a master's in computer science, I can have a greater understanding of my field and cause change at the right places instead of re-inventing existing things and considering them new from a point of ignorance.