Ways to improve your IT career now!

Iris Technologies

Copyright © 2019 by Iris Technologies EOOD

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise without written permission from the publisher. It is illegal to copy this book, post it to a website, or

distribute it by any other means without permission

Table of contents:

1. Introduction
2. 15 ways to enhance your IT career
3. Most demanded computer skills
4. Conclusion

With every day going by, technology is becoming a bigger part of our lives.

It is constantly evolving, therefore the expertise required in the IT sector change quickly.

In order to stay on top of your IT prospects, you should always learn and develop new skills.

We have collected the best ways you can do that!

Introduction

The advices you are about to read are given by proven specialists with successful careers in the IT sector.

Mary Shacklett who is the president of Transworld Data, a technology research and market development company.

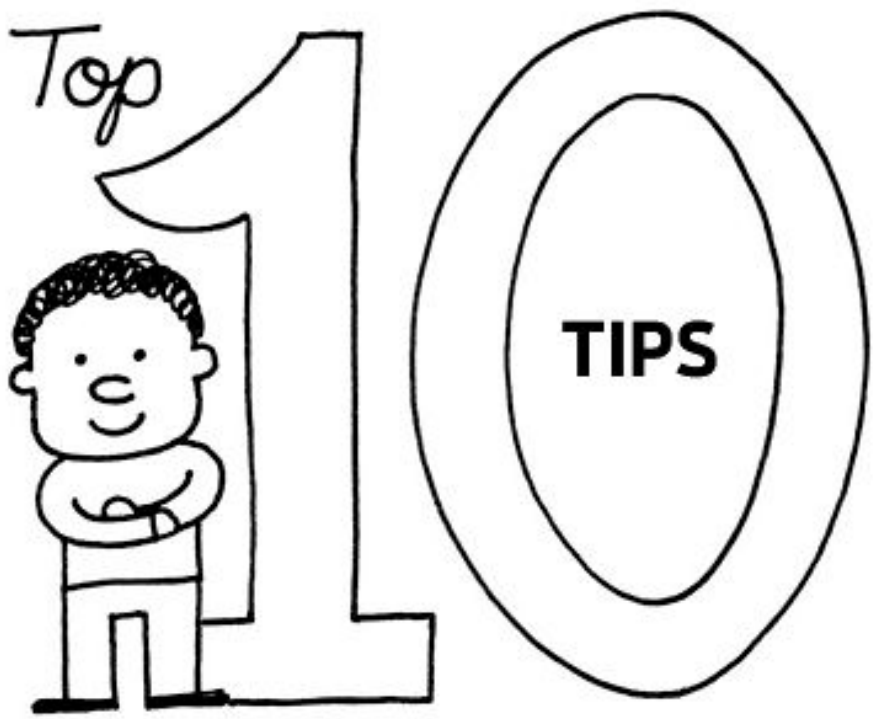
John Reed is the senior executive director of Robert Half Technology which provides a broad range of services such as systems integration, networking, database development and so on.

Now we are heading straight forward to the recommendations of both professionals!

15 ways to enhance your IT career

Mary Shacklett

Starting off with Mary Shacklett, here are the top 10 advices she could give everyone who wants to boost their career in the IT branch.



1. Find advantage in every situation

To explain this, Shacklett gives an example with her own self. In the beginning of her career she wanted to focus on the technical side of IT but she has always been very communicative.

So, she got assigned to either training or documentation.

In the process though she discovered her ability to understandably explain technologies and applications to users and businessmen.

This skill helped her climb the ladder and become valued.

2. Read about the business

Reading corporate annual reports may sound terribly boring but according to Shacklett it would help you learn more about the business and understand it better.

This way you will be able to get on top wherever you start working.

This content is subject to copyright.

3. Take a course in sales or marketing

Yes, we have not forgot what we are writing about - it is still the same article about the IT sector you have been reading.

But having the ability to talk decisively and sell your ideas is a key one and will surely serve you well.

Another advantage of taking a sales or marketing course is that you will step out of your comfort zone.

As cheesy as it sounds, we all know it is true that there is no better way than that to improve yourself!

4. Work on your communication skills

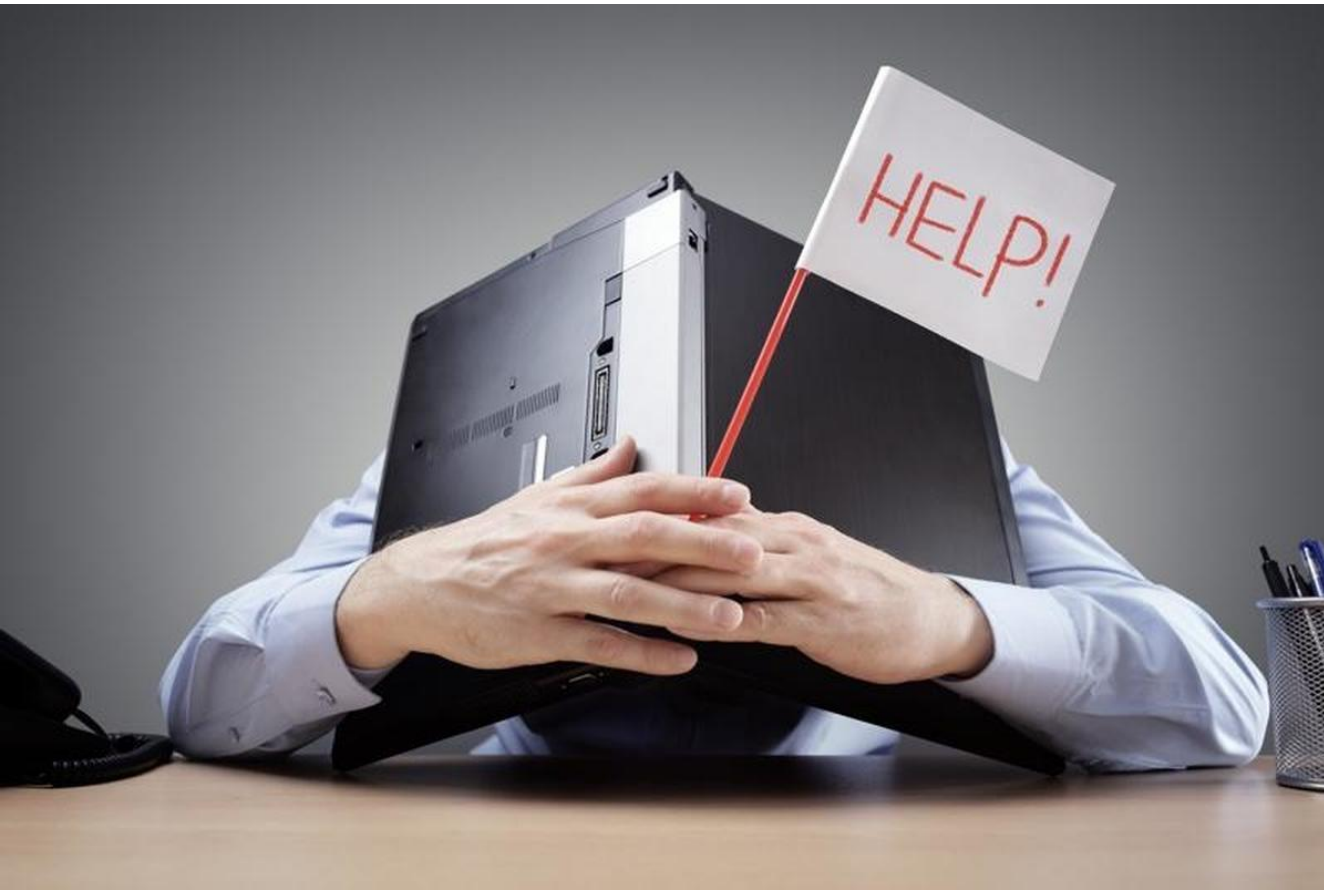
Shacklett advices to volunteer to make a presentation or a lead a meeting, no matter how terrified you might be of it.

By doing this you will stand out as a leader and be prepared for a management role (if you are aiming for it).

5. Engage with a failed project

Unfortunately, it happens sometimes a project to fail.

However, you can challenge yourself and take on it in order to make it work.



As Shacklett says, it has already failed and the only way it could go is up.

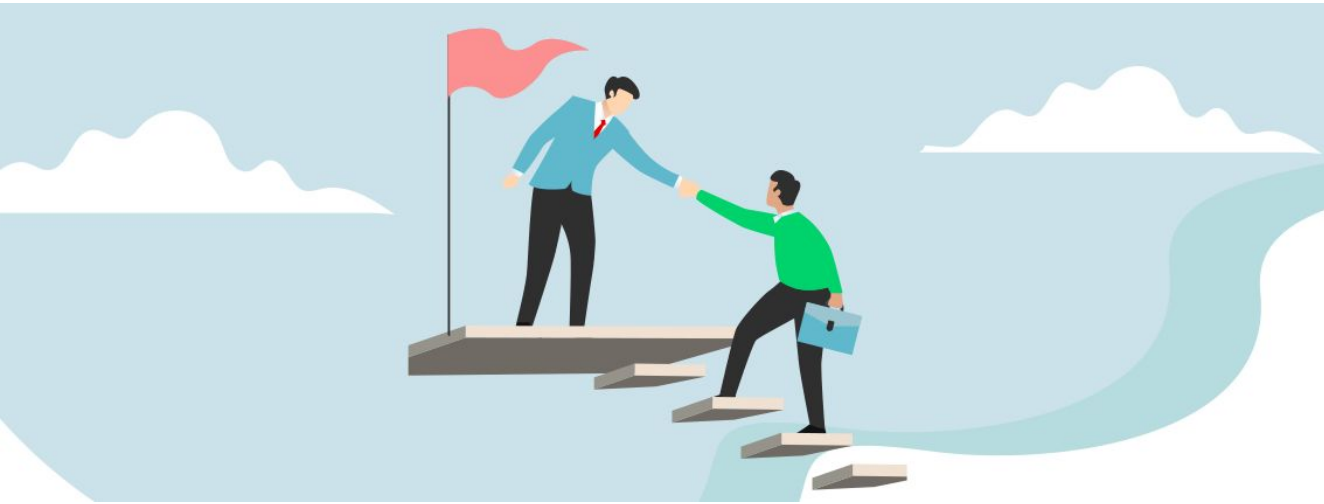
Therefore you should not be afraid - take the risk and prove yourself, as well as your boss, that you can turn it into success!

6. Look for mentors

In every sector there are skillful and creative people who you can learn a lot from.

A mentor will always share both their knowledge and experience and will guide you when you feel lost.

If you have the chance to have a mentor, get it immediately since it will help you not only professionally but also personally.



7. Remain present

The quick development of technologies overall makes it a bit hard to stay on the same place.

It requires constant changes and new skills.

So, it is good to take any courses, read periodicals or take part in trade groups in order to stay up to date.

8. Connect

Of course, this is valid not only for your professional but also for your personal life.

When you have a lot of contacts, more people will be aware of your competences.

This will make it easier for you to get into the business.

9. Win-win for everyone

Individuals love to win and feel successful.

A crucial skill every project manager or IT executive should have is the ability to make people work with passion.

When the team gets along, there is a desire for work and at the end the project succeeds, every member of the group will feel accomplished.

10. Give more

In the last advice Shacklett recalls an event - a senior app programmer wrote each app based on the user's specifications but thereafter he added something a bit more he knew would be useful for the user.

By giving more than you are asked to, you will please your customers and this is impossible to remain unnoticed!

John Reed

In turn, John Reed gives only 5 advices for ways to enhance your IT career but they are just as valuable!

Some of them overlap with Mary Shacklett’s, while others are a bit different and even - on the contrary of hers.

1. Master a new skill

Reed agrees with the old saying that you can not stand in one place - you are either going up or down.

This is very accurate in the IT sector since technology is evolving all the time.

In order to stay current, you have to develop new skills that correspond to the new needs.

We live in a time when all kinds of classes and courses are available on the market, so you should definitely take advantage!

By becoming certified you add a new asset in your CV and become more competitive.

2. Take on more projects

Shacklett advised to take on failed projects and turn them all around.

On the other hand, Reed's opinion is that you should volunteer for any additional projects.

Surely, you will have to work extra but it will make you more qualified.

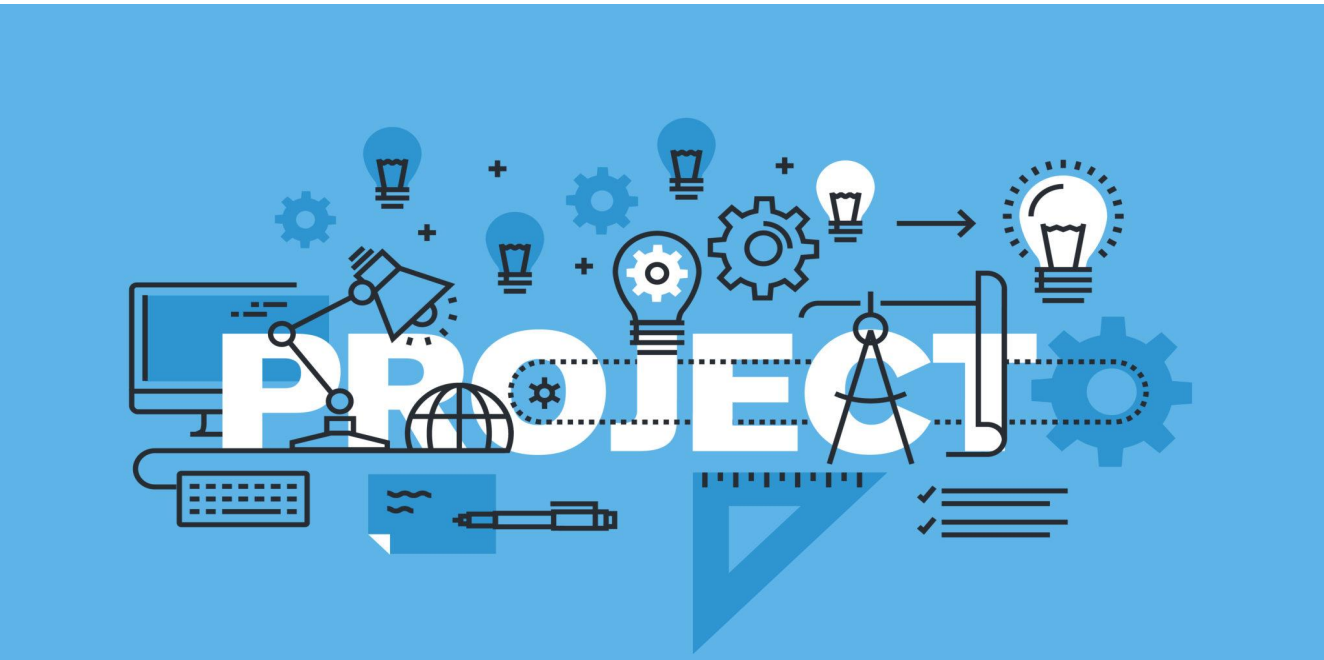
This will result in your value for the company getting bigger.

Thanks to the project you may also network with more people from your job which can always be beneficial!

Last but not least, you will prove yourself as a person who can be trusted.

Exactly in the third advice is the big difference between Mary Shacklett and John Reed.

While she advises you to get a mentor, he suggests:



3. Become a mentor

It is an amazing professional recognition to get the opportunity to guide your heirs.

You have to spread what you have learnt by your professional experience and help the mentees understand your motives, goals and the steps toward achieving them.

It is guaranteed that you too will learn a lot of new things in the process.

4. Comfort zone - jumped over

Always challenge yourself with what scares you the most.

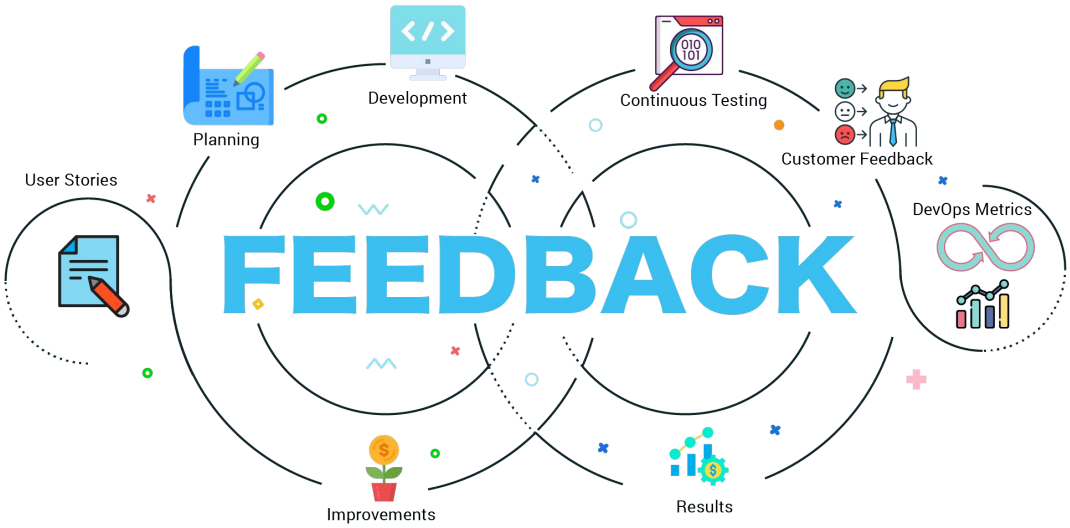
No matter if it is making a presentation, taking on a project or representing your company on a meeting.

Jumping over your comfort zone will make you the better professional you dream of being.

5. Look for feedback

Be broad-minded and open for new ideas or suggestions for improving your work!

It is important to know how your managers view you as a worker and how do they evaluate your skills.



Once you have received feedback, you will be able to work on further development of your communication skills, ability to work in a team, approach to problems and their solving.

Moreover it is a good idea to ask questions about your presentation over it is over - for example in what ways it was helpful for your audience.

Most demanded computer skills

Next we will present you a list with the 6 computer skills that are in a very high demand these days.

1. Spreadsheets and databases - you have to be able to store and organize data but in addition to that you have to be familiar with complex mathematical formulas.

If you want to be the best professional in this area, you have to work with: Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, Statistics, Data Analytics, Adobe Campaign and others. (You can find the full list in article number 1 in the sources of information.)

2. Social media - being an influencer or a blogger may seem like a very easy job but it is actually not.

People should have certain skills in order to be successful on social media.

Such are Content Management System, Google Analytics, Cascading Style Sheets, Email Marketing, Web Page Design, WordPress, Digital Marketing, SEO and Campaign Management Software.

3. Graphic design - if you would like to develop in the branch of graphic design, you should consider mastering the following skills: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Illustrator, AutoCAD, CorelDRAW (very hard, phew), Microsoft Visual Studio, Maya, Microsoft Word.

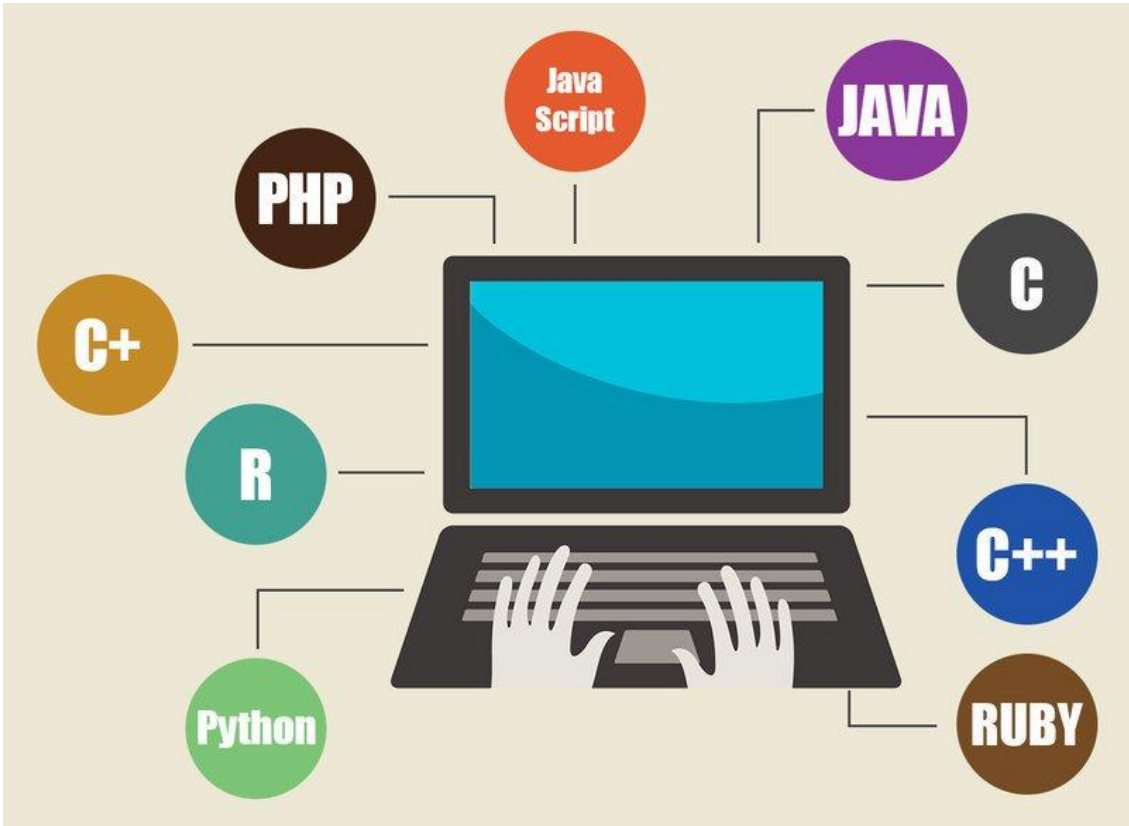
4. Software and hardware design and development - if you are not familiar with the meaning of this profession, here it is simply put: you design, implement and test the computer software or hardware apps.

Additionally, you should be aware of the user's demands and develop an app which meets their expectations.

Therefore you should “speak” different web and mobile app coding languages.

A few of them are: HTML, C/C++, Java, Python, XML, UI/UX, LINUX, etc.

By having the competence in this particular are, you may get a job as a Software Architect, Software Analyst, Hardware Configuration and more.



5. IT Troubleshooting - in order to get into the IT troubleshooting world, you have to know the computer and its mechanics closely.

It is definitely not enough to spend the whole day playing games or doing any kind of work on it.

People who work in the IT Troubleshooting are specialists who have the relevant education.

If you are interested in this area, you should develop the following competences: Backup management, Diagnostics, End User support, Client-Server management, Installation and configuration, Issue tracking system, System administration and Tech support.

6. Enterprise systems - a lot of enterprises have their own apps, solutions or softwares to manage their operations.

When you can use them (they are usually mentioned in the requirements), you will get the job easier.

Conclusion

Being eager to constantly learn new things and master new skills is a key step in whichever are you decide to specialize.

You have to be proactive, communicative, ready to talk but to listen as well.

To get a feedback, even if do not like it, has to serve you as a motivator to grow and improve your competence.

If it is hard for you to do it on your own, find a person who will motivate you and guide you in the right direction.

The advices given by the professional Mary Shacklett and John Reed are extremely valuable since they can be useful not only for the IT profession.

You can use them as guidelines for your personal development as well!

So, read them again if you have the need and get the work done!

It is 100 percent sure you won't have any regrets after the positive outcome!

Sources:

How to Improve Your Computer Skills to Get Ahead in Your Career

5 Ways to Boost Your IT Career

10 ways to advance your IT career

Images:

Google.com