Careers

SKILLS WANTED
SQL, JAVA, PYTHON, AND AWS TOP EMPLOYERS' WISH LISTS

> **WHAT TECH SKILLS DO U.S. EMPLOYERS** want? Researchers at job search site Indeed took a deep dive into its database to answer that question. And, at least for now, expertise in SQL came out on top of the list of most highly sought-after skills, followed by Java. Python and Amazon Web Services (AWS) are coming on fast, and, should trends continue, may take over the lead in the next year or two.

Indeed's team considered U.S. English-language jobs posted on the site between September 2014 and September 2019; those postings encompassed 571 tech skills. Five years can be a long time in tech: Witness the rise of employer interest in Docker, an enterprise container platform. In 2014, it had a barely registering share of 0.1 percent of job-post mentions. By 2019, demand for proficiency in that platform-as-a-service grew to 5.1 percent of job-post mentions, putting it at No. 20 on the list today. Similarly, Azure jumped more than 1,000 percent during that period, from 0.6 percent to 6.9 percent; and the general category of machine learning climbed 439 percent, closely followed by AWS at 418 percent. (The top 20 for 2019, along with their 2014 shares, are listed in the table to the right.)

Indeed's researchers note that the big jumps in demand for engineers skilled in Python stem from the boom in data-scientist and engineer jobs, which disproportionately use Python. AWS's growth, they indicated, has been fueled by the proliferation of full stack developer and development operations engineering positions. **—TEKLA S. PERRY**

An extended version of this article appears in our View From the Valley blog.

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Rank	Skill	2014 Share	2019 Share	Change
1	SQL	23.6%	21.9%	-7%
2	Java	19.7%	20.8%	6%
3	Python	8.1%	18.0%	123%
4	Linux	14.9%	14.9%	0%
5	Javascript	12.4%	14.5%	17%
6	AWS	2.7%	14.2%	418%
7	C++	10.6%	10.7%	1%
8	C	9.3%	10.3%	11%
9	C#	8.3%	9.3%	11%
10	.net	9.9%	8.4%	-15%
11	Oracle	13.5%	8.4%	-38%
12	HTML	9.8%	8.1%	-17%
13	Scrum	4.8%	8.0%	64%
14	Git	3.1%	7.8%	148%
15	CSS	7.8%	7.3%	-5%
16	Machine Learning	1.3%	7.0%	439%
17	Azure	0.6%	6.9%	1,107%
18	Unix	10.0%	6.7%	-33%
19	SQL Server	7.8%	6.5%	-17%
20	Docker	0.1%	5.1%	4,162%