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Why You Should Not Be a Software Developer

By Paul Nehrbass (Visa, Director of Development)

As a man of experience, Nehrbass wanted to speak about what he wishes he knew when he first started his career. He proposed that you should not focus on how much income a job has, but rather base your lifestyle around the income we get from the job you want. He has been in many positions, and has learned that money is not the clear way to choose what field to be in.

Answering a question in the chat, Nehrbass talked about Dev Ops and how it is the place where you learn by being thrown into the fire of the product. You learn everything about the product by solving all the problems, sometimes even having to wake up in the early hours of the morning. By being in the middle of the maelstrom, you pick up everything there is to know about how the software works and what strengths and weaknesses it has.

I love how Nehrbass's approach to careers focuses on quality of life instead of how much they pay. This mindset ensures that I can have a fulfilling career instead of a draining one. I do wonder, where is the bottom line for income? When is it appropriate to seek money in a career? At what point does a career become a lifestyle verses a series of jobs?