Code script to Docs script
- Narrative of a software developer stepping into the documentation world!!

I am often asked why and how, a former developer like me ever thought of stepping into the world of documentation!

Unlike celebrities, I won't say that I just tried my luck in one of the interviews being held for Technical writing, and landed into this profession "accidentally".

It was indeed a well thought-out career changing decision.

My career started-off in the year 2014. Being graduated as a software engineer, I commenced my career in one of the world's finest Fortune-500 companies, as a Java developer. A 21-year-old me couldn't have expected more, and it gave me and my family immense satisfaction. I still remember, the day I received my joining letter, my father was on cloud nine, and gifted me the best, probably one of the most expensive formal wears for my induction day.

Since college days, I was known as a "girl who can code"—keeping track of new technology trends, playing around with code, solving puzzles—all these deeply rooted in my daily chores. To all this, I sometimes wanted the perfect infinity.
Having acted as the tech-savvy girl for around 2 years in the IT industry, somehow I started feeling bored doing the mundane tasks. This included hours of travelling, bug fixing, maintaining old age modules—doing everything opposite of what was carved in my little thought bubble.

I dutifully performed my coding tasks, but along with this, I started volunteering to complete the internal design documents for my team. Being daughter to professors and hailing from the family of writers, language and literature were not novice to me.

My co-workers used to dread doing the documentation work—work that I started enjoying, work that uplifted my mood and brought immense satisfaction to me.

I would spent hours to meticulously capture each and every detail, just to make sure the information provided in the document is correct, complete and clear.

Seeing the outcome of my work, my manager happily made me incharge of other internal documents and presentations. Apart from my usual developement tasks, I started preparing business letters, presentation decks, design documents, and so on.

I started collecting first hand feedback from my users—developers and testers from my team—who could then relate to my documentation and understand the functional and technical impact.

It's not that out of the blue, my love for coding stopped, but I started having a good time completing the documentation work.

I wanted to turn this part-time contentment into a full-time profession, wherein I can collect the same feedback from my clients using the software product. But how?? I can't stay a developer and at the same time write for the end users.
Being an avid blog reader, one day I came across the blog named, "I'dratherbewriting" by Tom Johnson, that enlists latest trends in 'Technical Writing and User Documentation'. Wait!! Technical Writing!!!.

I read this word numerous times to understand the meaning of this term.

A sea full of questions regarding what this profession is all about captivated my mind. My hunt to figure out the depth of this term finally began. I started surfing and researching more about technical writing. The writer in me began to yearn for this kind of job profile.

It was the like, finding that missing but really important block of the unsolved puzzle. Now I just had to find its right place.

To all the people alien to the term 'Tech writing', I must tell that technical writing is not merely to fulfil legal requirement of a product with a manual. Research suggests that users go through all the available marketing and technical documentation before investing in any product or service. Tech-writer acts as a mediator whose mission is to start with a complicated piece of functional requirement, map with the technical solution and equip the end users to use those features and functionalities effortlessly to solve their market problems. End users documents can be in various forms, such as API docs, User Guide, Tutorials, Release Notes, Installation Guide, videos, Micro-learnings, and so on.

No matter how much allured I was with this new profession, a whirlwind of emotions passed through me as I was about to take an elephantine risk with my profession. The sudden shift from being a coder to a technical writer prompted innumerous unanswered questions, thinking of all the failures I could meet walking down this path. But as they say, "unless you give a try, you will never know the worth of taking the risk"; I for sure didn't want to die wondering.
I asked myself, "Why I want to do this?". I often ended up answering that the reason I chose to be technical writer and not just any other content writer was my love for technology. The

technical fire was still alive, the engineer in me didn't want to waste the blood, sweat and tears I put to crack those entrace exams.

No other profession than technical writing could bring my qualification and writing passion under the same umbrella. Finally, I thought of giving a shot to this "Technical Writer" profession. Knowing that nothing worth comes easy, I prepared for the internal job opening relentlessly. Being one of the finest writers, my sister relentlessly helped me in the preparation. I knew that coming from different background, I will face acceptance issues, but as they say hard work always pays off . I cleared my written and face-to-face interview to finally join the Technical Publishing team as the junior Technical Writer.

My tech writer's journey just took-off; All the style guides, authoring tools, and other technical details involved behind the scenes to complete a document, were still virgin to me.

I still remember my first-ever end user document. I made ample of rookie mistakes. But my seniors were kind enough to assist me; their assistance ultimately accentuated my expertise.

"Never stop yearn to learn"—the only success mantra I follow till date refined me day by day. I still learn everyday and would continue to upskill myself and help end users meet their goals.

In the nutshell, I conclude by saying, "Don't be afraid to take down the unfamiliar path, they are the ones that take you to best places."

Komalreetkaur