

**UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN**

**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE**

**UECS2363 SOFTWARE CONSTRUCTION AND CONFIGURATION**

Tutor : **Dr. Tay Yong Haur**

Practical Group : 1  
Student Details :

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**CCIS Talk: Joys of Tech: Discovering Your Calling in a Tech Career**

Date: 13 July 2015 (Monday)

Time: 12PM - 1PM

Venue: KB106, UTAR Sg Long Campus, Bandar Sungai Long, Selangor.

Speaker: Leong Seh Hui, MindValley

Summary of the Talk:

This was the first CCIS talk organized by our lecture Dr.Tay for the subject (Software Construction and Configuration). The invited speaker was an ex-UTAR student who had been graduated under Computer Science course and graduated about 10 years ago. He is a 10 years’ experience programmer who work under MindValley Company that are specializing in developing API services and data solutions. He is also a co-organizer, speaker and proud volunteer for several tech communities and meetups such as LvlUp.KL (previously known as Webcamp KL) and Python User Group Malaysia. The duration of the talk is roughly 1 hour, started with introducing himself, his career and provide general guidelines on how to prepare for the interview or working life when we start to looking for jobs. After that, he shared on the challenges and the way to overcome the problem over his career job. He also list out what is the important skill and technology industry need and graduate student must require. The talks end with Q&A sections with the audiences.

Key Criteria and Skillset for a Successful Software Related Career

There are not only a way to be successful, Mr Leong said that software related job not limited to just sit in front of a computer and write the code all the days to develop a software or web application. The software field is longer like old days which mostly are focused on the programmer, nowadays even got software tester, system admin, data analyse, support engineer and even sales because if someone are going to sell particular software, he/she must know what is the function it have and how well the looking of the UI of the software is developed. First of all, we must understand what we want for ourselves. If we are more interesting in social or communicate with other people, we can work as requirement gatherer to gather the information from client and get the software-related information. Some of the people don’t even want to go for working places and follow the working hours, they have a choice by doing the freelance. The important is we know what we like and which area we are strong at, and try to search for the related job.

There are 3 major type of company which are Enterprise with big corporations, Start-up companies such as FoodPanda or MyTaxi, and even start up our own company from the beginning. Enterprise encompass a big structured organization, each team has a team manager to monitor the work given to the employee. Normally the company have the system development life cycle (waterfall, prototyping, iterative and incremental development, spiral development, rapid application development, extreme programming and various types of agile methodology). Developer must follow the process to deliver the software component. If working with Start-up Company or Start-up own company will probably not clash with authorities and work with more freely. So that we have to understand what we are looking for in order to working with suitable and good environment.

Skill-sets needed for a fresh graduate

* Programming related tools and languages. He say that a fresh graduate need to know at least 1 source control software. He also mentioned Git is the most popular open source software for source control. 1 scripting language like Python or Ruby is necessary to make programmer life easier by automating certain tasks or test, most of the programmer does not like to do everything in manual and keep repeating the same task. 1 markup language rather than just using Microsoft Word to carry tasks efficiently. Normally each programmer must know the testing techniques to test the software that are developed to uncover the error.
* Ability to read. Many open source code are available on the website, the programmer can find the solutions from the website like Google, MSDN and StackOverflow. The fresh graduate must able to read and understand the solution available on the website and reuse it in the code. Not only for coding, the programmer must able to read the documentation provided the company to understand the overall flow of the process.
* Active learning. He mentioned that learning never stops, because what we learn from school is not enough for us to prepare for work. Self-learning is most important for the programmer, since the things are update from time-to-time.
* Communication. Mr Leong says that having some soft skills for programmer is good and better. Since a programmer not only have to deal with computer, while they have to communicate with the people. Programmer need to have good interaction with the customer to have better understanding on the user requirement, so that they can produce an excellent and satisfied software.

Challenges in Software Development Profession

It is always difficult for the fresh graduate student to have a good communication with others in the working environment, they might have good interaction with their friends in school, but this will not show that they will having the same relationship with others. This is because we might have the same topic interested in game like “DOTA2”, but how we know others have the same interest like us? It is hard to understand other people feeling, idea or thoughts.

The second challenge is enhance personal programming skill. In this software industry, the things will be more advance from day-to-day, so being a software developer need to update themselves frequently by reading stuff on internet or newspaper. The one will left behind very quickly if he/she is not moving forward.

Your opinions of the talk and your career

The talk is not limited to UTAR student or staff only, the outsider are welcome, it is good that I attend this talk and special thanks to Dr Tay for invite Mr Leong to share his career and provide some guideline for us. I have learned a lot from the talk and I hope that I have a clear direction for my career, what I want and what I actually need. And I know that I need to enhance myself for being a good and smart programmer in future.