

skillcrush

ARE YOU READY TO BE A WEB DEVELOPER?

| A checklist.

THIS YEAR, BECOME A WEB DEVELOPER

Forget “Orange Is The New Black”. December is the new January. That’s right! If you want to make the most of ALL 365 days of the coming year, you need to get started on your resolutions now. And that includes your career goals to make more money and have more job flexibility.

That might sound as impossible as your resolution last year to go to the gym every day (Who actually does that anyhow?!) but this checklist will make it easy.

Web developer is one of the hottest jobs out there nowadays, as well as one of the most interesting and well-paid. Whether you’ve already got some skills down pat or are just getting started, this checklist will help you make sure you have what it takes to fill your 2015 with hefty paychecks, a doable working schedule, and plenty of fun and fascinating projects.

Use this checklist to find out what you need to focus on so you can be your best in the new year.

BUILDING A SITE:

TEXT EDITORS

Text editors are software programs that you use to write and edit “plain text” (text without formatting), like website code. Examples of popular ones are Sublime Text, TextWrangler and Notepad++.

- ☐ I’ve never heard of this.
- ☐ I’ve heard of this but I don’t really understand it.
- ☐ I know what this is but I’ve never tried it.
- ☐ I’ve practiced this.
- ☐ I know I can do this.

HTML

HTML, or HyperText Markup Language, is the language that websites are written in. It’s how you put content on pages and structure it too.

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CSS

CSS, or Cascading Style Sheets, is code that determines how web page content will be formatted and displayed. In other words, it's what turns HTML into good-looking sites, and you need to know CSS in order to turn plain old text into head-turning sites.

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DEBUGGING

In web development, as in life, things don't always go as planned. So, you need to know how to discover problems in your code and work toward fixing them. And, with tools like Firebug, JSBin, Chrome Developer Tools, etc., you can also test and explore code so that you'll always be learning and improving.

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SITE LAUNCH

Site launch is what you need to actually get a site live on the Internet. It includes FTP (File Transfer Protocol) software, a domain name (the name of the site, like skillcrush.com) and hosting (service that gives your site a "space" on a server connected to the Internet).

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BONUS: RESPONSIVE WEB DESIGN

If you want to design a site that works well (and maybe a bit differently) on a mobile screen than it looks on a desktop, you'll need to understand responsive design. You can still build

simple, one-column sites without it, so go ahead and dive in if you don't know any responsive design yet. Luckily, you can learn a lot about responsive design on your own and add to your skillset a little at a time.

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BUILDING A WEB APP:

RUBY:

Ruby is not only one of the most popular programming languages today, but it's also one of the most beloved. In fact, one of the goals of its creator was to make a language that makes programmers happy! Who wouldn't want to learn a language like that? And the fact that Ruby programmers make fantastic salaries and are in huge demand doesn't hurt either, right?

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COMMAND LINE:

The command line is a user interface where you tell a computer what to do by typing in instructions, or "commands", as lines of text (instead of, for example, clicking icons with a mouse). The command line gives you more control and lets you work quickly, and it's a critical skill that you'll probably use every day as a web developer.

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PROGRAMMING FUNDAMENTALS:

The beauty of learning any programming language, such as Ruby, is that many of the concepts from that language can be applied to others. So, getting your head around concepts like

objects, strings, integers, variables, methods and arrays will give you a foundation for your entire web dev career.

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FRAMEWORKS:

Frameworks are foundations that web applications are built on. They allow you to control hardware, work with system software and handle input. Examples of Ruby frameworks are Sinatra and Ruby on Rails, and knowing these or other similar ones will make you an even more marketable web developer.

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

TIME MANAGEMENT

To make sure you work effectively and efficiently, you'll need to stay aware and in control of how much time you use for different tasks and projects and make sure you meet deadlines. This'll be especially important if you freelance since your clients will want to know how you're spending the time they're paying for.

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PLANNING

To make sure you can handle a project as promised, you'll also need to make - and follow! - a detailed plan that includes the scope (all the work to be done), budget and schedule. The more complicated the project, the more important planning will be!

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COMMUNICATION

And, last but not least, you'll need to communicate with your colleagues and supervisors or clients in a way that makes it easy and nice to work with you. Even if you have all the other skills in this list, if you still have to be able to tell people about your work and understand what they expect from your work to be like.

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If you know everything on this list, fantastic! You're ready for a great career in web dev.

To make extra sure that you are, watch this episode of Skillcrush TV where Skillcrush CEO Adda lets you in on the secret of the "developer mindset".

And, if you're not yet a pro at some of these skills, join us for the next session of the Skillcrush Web Developer Career Blueprint, and you'll be up to speed in just 3 short months. Enrollment starts soon, and you can join our special list to be the first to know about it.

Want to enjoy a relaxing holiday season this year? Then make a promise to yourself NOW to learn what you need to get a job that you love in 2015.

THANKS *for* **JOINING US.**

Feel free to email us with any questions at hello@skillcrush.com.