Taking a leap of faith! A Journey to IT

Good bye 2020. We are ready to rock 2021

The WFW community was created to make it easier for women to share their skills and knowledge among their female friends. If you want to deepen your IT knowledge but feel too awkward/shy to ask the opposite gender for help, consider this group to be your starter-kit for the future. AWESOME DAYS are coming ahead!

2020 has been a rollercoaster and despite having plans for organising several workshops, we had to stay put due to Covid-19. Workshops are at the heart of WFW and we believe that the best way of learning is learning by doing. However, due to the pandemic, physical workshops were out of the question. Virtual workshops have their own challenges, so we decided to try out a different format this time. Together with Future Female, we organised our very first *webinar* on the topic of **Taking a leap of faith! A journey to IT**. What better way to welcome 2021 than listening to interesting stories and getting lots of inspiration and ideas to start your own path in IT?

Five amazing speakers, who had very different backgrounds shared their experiences with us in the webinar. We had interesting discussions about their overall journey to IT - how they got started, the challenges they faced and what resources helped them during the transition. This blog summarises some of the useful guides that were shared by our speakers on kickstarting and rocking a career in tech.

Discover your areas of interests

Technology is a broad field and you may want to focus on certain areas of tech to learn certain required skills. For example, you could choose from web development, cloud services, data science, product management etc. You can do some research about these areas online or by asking people in your network. With this information, you can explore more on the area that interests you the most.

Choose a route

You may either choose to join a university and complete a whole degree, or take the route of "*self-teaching*" where you choose precisely what skills you are interested in, find resources and learn those on your own without formal instruction. There is also a possibility to enrol in an intensive boot camp which lasts for about 10-12 weeks, depending on the academy. Whatever route you choose to take, hard work, persistence and dedication are the keys to success.

Set goals

It is important to set specific goals you want to achieve in a time frame and make plans accordingly. Allocate certain hours per day or per week for a task/s and work on those. Additionally, have an accountability buddy to help you stay focused and keep track of achieving those goals.

Engage in peer learning

Another way of learning and improving skills is with the help of peers. Finding peers and learning from each other is a great way of knowledge sharing and keeping each other motivated. And learning can be much more *fun* together!

Find resources online

There are lots of valuable resources online that you can use to maximise your learnings. Many of them are also available *freely*. Platforms like [freeCodeCamp](), [codecademy](), [Udemy]() and [YouTube]() are great places to get started. Here in Finland, universities also offer

Let's make learning great again!

several courses online for free through [FiTech](). Given the vast amount of resources online, it can be overwhelming to choose the *right* resources. Do a quick check of the resource for getting started and stick with it *if you find it useful*. Make sure that the format and the learning goals match what you are looking for and read the online reviews.

Leverage your current skills

Think about the transferable skills that you already have and combine these skills to fit into your new role. Someone who is switching to tech always has more to offer to potential employers. Besides the technical skills, *soft skills* such as effective communication, teamwork, adaptability etc. and some *business skills* are also important. Be proud of your previous background and do not apologise for not knowing something (*which you will eventually learn with more experience*).

Be bold and curious

Do not hesitate to ask questions to your colleagues if something is unclear. Be curious about new technologies and try to learn new things everyday. *Learning is a never ending process, especially in tech*.

Start now

Do not spend too much time thinking about when to start. The right time for getting started is *now*. Just go for it and see how you like it. This will give you a clearer picture of what your future holds and you can make adjustments accordingly. It's going to be one heck of an experience and *there is nothing to lose after all*.

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That's all for today. Many thanks to all our speakers for giving their precious time, Future Female for all the support and to all the participants for being a great audience and making this webinar successful.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas 2020 and hope to bring in more exciting events next year. Happy Holidays and stay safe!