



The ultimate guide to becoming a developer





THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO becoming a developer

Whether you're wondering if the title of "developer" should have your name next to it or you've just started on the path to software success, consider this guide your personal README.md file.

(And if that reference didn't make sense to you, read on. It will soon, grasshopper.)

In this software developer resource guide, we will:

- Explore just how in-demand developers are and the growing gap of qualified individuals needed
- Discuss the many benefits and perks of being a developer
- Enlighten you on the myriad of resources at your fingertips

Follow us. All roads lead to major software development success.

22%

Projected employment growth
by 2020

- U.S. Department of Labor

2.8%

Unemployment rate

- U.S. News & World Report, 2014

54%

Job growth for iOS developers
between 2012 to 2014

- CyberCoders



222,600 more software
development jobs by 2022

- U.S. Department of Labor

110%

Job growth for Android developers
between 2012 and 2014

- CyberCoders



Software developer: Ranked best
tech job in 2014

- U.S. News & World Report

DEVELOPERS, DEVELOPERS, DEVELOPERS

Did you know that software development is one of the fastest growing occupations - especially for mobile software developers - with a projected growth rate of 22% in the next five years?

All we have to say is “developers, developers, developers...” in our best Steve Ballmer voice—minus the sweat stains and zealot fanaticism. We’ll let the numbers do the talking, but overall, we need you.

“Salaries for jobs like mobile applications developer and software developer will see increases of nearly 8%, and tech salaries overall will see a 5.6% increase. While most salaries in other sectors will grow, on average, it will be only 3.7%.”

- 2014 Salary Guide, Robert Half



Competitive salary | \$96,260

This is the mean annual wage for software developers.

**According to the U.S. Department of Labor*



Positive job outlook | 22% job growth

Software development is one of the fastest growing occupations.

**According to the U.S. Department of Labor*

DEVELOP SOME SERIOUS BENEFITS

It's easy to choose a career that's in demand and has an overwhelmingly positive outlook, but it's hard to find a job you love that also includes great benefits. However, in your case, software development has both. Between great pay, a flexible schedule, solid job prospects and continuously being at the forefront of technology, what's not to love about being a developer? Nothing, really. Allow us to break down some of the many benefits.

- **Flexibility:** Whether you like working from home, working from around the world or around the clock, developers often have some of the most flexible schedules of any career. As a software developer, you may be able to escape traffic-ridden commutes and the traditional 9-to-5 grind.
- **Job satisfaction:** "Most good programmers do programming not because they expect to get paid or get adulation by the public, but because it is fun to program." - Linus Torvalds, creator of Linux kernel
- **Innovation & creativity:** Technology moves at a rapid pace; wouldn't it be rewarding and inspiring to stay on the cutting edge of a field that shapes the way we live?
- **New challenges:** With countless programming languages and new ones on the horizon, variety is the spice of a developer's life. You have the power to create essentially anything you can dream up—once you have mastered the skills, of course.



GO FORTH AND DEVELOP

We know your next question: What's my next step? Diving into any career path can be a little daunting and uncertain, especially if you're learning to code. Whether you're passionate about creating games, mastering backend server development or building mobile apps, we can definitely help. We've got plenty of resources to get you on the right route.

Pluralsight's beginner courses & beyond

When it comes to learning to code, it isn't always easy to know which material to start with. Jump in with some beginner courses like these:

- Front End Web Development: Get Started
- Front-End Web Development Quick Start With HTML5, CSS, and JavaScript
- HTML5 Fundamentals
- Object-Oriented Programming Fundamentals in C#
- Swift: First Look
- Making Games With Hopscotch

Find user groups & mentors

There's nothing like learning from others in your field, especially those with more experience. Find local user groups devoted to the language or technology of your choice by using sites such as [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com/); or take part in events like code retreats near you.

Plan out your path

Mapping out what you want to learn help can help. Our Learning Paths can be used as an example to help you understand what you should learn and in which order.



PARTICIPATE IN DEV DISCUSSIONS

Between webinars, online discussion forums, news sites, podcasts, social media chats and expertise offered on blogs, there are plenty of opportunities to interact. Follow your favorite brands and industry thought-leaders, strike up a convo with fellow developers, or subscribe to top blogs.

Get started with some of these:

Podcasts

Ruby Rogues

Javascript Jabber

.Net Rocks

Hanselminutes

Herding Code

This Developer's Life

Websites & blogs

Hour of Code

Pluralsight

Code.org

Code School

InfoWorld

Microsoft Learning

Hacker News

TechNewsDaily (Mashable)

Tech Crunch

Dice

Stack Overflow

Github

Topcoder

Coding Horror

NOOP.NL

8th Light

Scott Hanselman blog

ProgrammableWeb

Paul Graham's essays

Stevey's blog rants

Joel on Software

A List Apart (Code)

Read up

While software development books that may be relevant today could be outdated in just a few short years, here are some you may want to give a read:

- Clean Code: A Handbook of Agile Software Craftsmanship
- The Pragmatic Programmer: From Journeyman to Master
- Head First Design Patterns
- Working Effectively with Legacy Code
- Apprenticeship Patterns: Guidance for the Aspiring Software Craftsman

Track your progress

Lastly, you'll want to see how you're progressing in your development endeavors. Do practice exercises and take assessments from sites like Topcoder, Github or from us at Pluralsight.


Learning to code is the easy part now that you've cracked the code to becoming a developer. With a job this in-demand and plenty of perks coming your way, use these resources and make this guide your roadmap to a great future in software development.

And to make the most of these resources, we'll even give you access to all 3,000+ courses with a free 10-day trial subscription to Pluralsight. This way, you're able to explore the largest tech and creative library on the planet and see just how easy it is to advance your career.



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