



Careers information sheet

Software Developer

What do Software Developers do?

Software Developers are responsible for writing specifications, designing, developing, installing, testing and maintaining software applications, usually to improve business efficiency and productivity. They work closely with clients and turn their business requirements into detailed technical specifications. They write the programming code from scratch, or adapt existing software.

Developers must be able to use new web-based technologies such as .Net, although traditional programming languages such as C++ and Visual Basic (VB) are still used extensively.

(Source: learndirect/jobs4u)

There are several different pathways to become a Software Developer.

- ROUTE 1 - Vocational learning
- ROUTE 2 - Advanced Apprenticeships
- ROUTE 3 - Traditional

Got to the Key Routes web pages for interactive versions of these –
<http://www.keyroutes.org.uk/careas/itech/opt-softdev.aspx>

What else should I be doing?

Software developers need strong technical skills, as well as the ability to communicate with a wide range of different people, so it would help you to:

- get experience of programming and software design
- try out a range of computer applications
- develop your problem solving skills
- develop your customer service skills through relevant work experience
- take software industry qualifications such as Cisco, Microsoft and Oracle

Useful links

Once in your job there are lots of opportunities for Continuing Professional Development, including higher level management skills. Many of these are through the British Computer Society.

<http://www.bcs.org.uk>

The Business Application Software Developers Association represents many of the world's leading business software suppliers.

<http://www.basda.org>

The Institution of Analysts and Programmers

<http://www.iap.org.uk> is an organisation for professionals working in the development, installation and testing of business systems and computer software.