



STUDENT ACTIVATION

Director of Software Engineering

DEFINITIONS

Software:

the programs and operating information used by a computer.

Engineer:

a person who designs, builds and maintains structures or systems.

Software Engineer:

an engineer specializing in designing, building and maintaining software.

Director:

the leader in charge of a team or department.

What if you could create an app to solve a problem and make the world a better place? Better yet, what if you had a whole team to help you? In addition to designing quality computer programs that are safe and efficient, a Director of Software Engineering provides the experience, leadership and communication skills to help your company achieve its goals.

WHAT IS A DIRECTOR OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING?

The **Director of Software Engineering** is a leadership role. This individual leads one or more teams in the company. They help to coordinate team members to plan and complete projects. They also serve as technical advisors for the teams that report to them. A day in the life of a Director of Software Engineering may involve reviewing current software designs, recommending actions, preparing reports and meeting with various stakeholders. It may also involve supervising and training new staff.

IS THIS A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

Me	Director of Software Engineering
I can often see what others do well.	Helps others use their strengths.
I enjoy talking to others. I also like facilitating conversations.	Must communicate clearly and professionally and helps others do the same.
I don't rush into something until I have a solid plan of action.	Takes time to thoroughly understand a problem before jumping in to solve it.

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STUDENT ACTIVATION (Continued)



I cheer others on and encourage them to do their best.	Supports and coaches others to do their best work.
I like to keep myself and others organized.	Manages and oversees the work of the team or teams.
I like to learn as much as I can about favorite topics.	Has a deep and ever-expanding knowledge of software design.



How can a Director of Software Engineering help me?	How can a Director of Software Engineering help the world?
A Director of Software Engineering helps make sure that you have a positive experience when using an application or program. They ensure that your programs run without errors and do what they are supposed to do. A Director of Software Engineering works with a team to design software solutions to help customers.	A Director of Software Engineering works with to create products to meet the needs of people around the world. The programs and applications they bring to life can help to tackle global problems and challenges.

WHAT ARE SOME SIMILAR CAREERS?

Director or Vice President of Software Development—A leadership role, the Director or Vice President of Software Development makes decisions that bring the company closer to its goals. They develop detailed plans and manage the quality of the programs being created. They also ensure that programs are safe as well as convenient. Lastly, these company leaders must have the ability to communicate software solutions in a clear and concise way.



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STUDENT ACTIVATION (Continued)



HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO PRACTICE THE SKILLS NEEDED TO BE A SUCCESSFUL DIRECTOR OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING:

- Make a point of asking your friends, family and classmates what they are good at. Ask questions to learn more about their areas of expertise.
- Practice being clear in your own communications. Reflect on a time when you could have made a request or given advice more clearly. Write in a journal what you would say if you had the chance for a "do over."
- Make a habit of reading instructions for assignments or projects twice. Ask yourself if you understand what you need to do before beginning a task.
- Practice patience. Breathe and count to five before jumping in to try to solve a problem or respond to a question.
- Draft a list of compliments for your family, friends, or classmates. Tell them when you observe them doing something well.
- Practice using a planner or calendar to keep track of your projects, assignments and responsibilities.
- Take time to develop and enjoy your hobbies. Share your excitement with others.



DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH ON THE TOPIC OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

How can we help people safely enjoy their favorite programs? How can we help when the program doesn't work the way it should?



