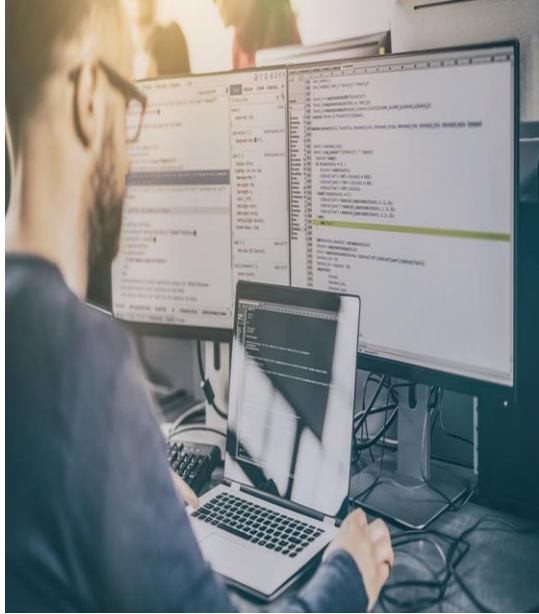# Software developer Also called: Programmer

Software developers design, build and test computer programmes for business, education and leisure activities.

What you'll do:

You could work in a wide range of businesses and industries, public services, utilities, defence and research.

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- talking through requirements with the client.
- taking part in technical design and progress meetings
- writing or amending computer code
- testing software and fixing problems
- keeping accurate records of the development process.
- carrying out trials and quality checks before release
- maintaining and supporting systems.

Watch this video from someone who is a technical designer at Microsoft

https://cdn.unifrog.org/video/p4nwwwtplw/480.mp4

East Midlands growth:+13.2% from 2014 to 2024

Overall UK median earnings: £38,622

Skills You'll need:

- the ability to understand the development process
- some programming knowledge
- the ability to work under pressure and to deadlines
- maths skills

These university subjects are related to this career:

Computer science and AI

Information systems

Software engineering

Qualifications and grades

Level 2 (e.g. GCSEs)

5 GCSEs with a minimum of grade 4 for English and maths and strong grades in ICT or science

Level 3 (e.g. A-Levels, BTECs)

A strong grade in Maths and some universities will also require Computer Science, Physics or Electronics. Required grades vary between AAB-CCC, depending on the university.

You may be able to get into this job through an apprenticeship if you've developed some programming skills and can show a strong interest in the subject.

The TECH Partnership has details of digital apprenticeships at all levels.

Working hours, patterns and environment

You'll usually work 37 to 40 hours a week. You may need to do overtime and weekend work to meet deadlines or to fit around your client's business.

You'll be office-based but may travel to meet clients and fulfil contracts.