Coulda Been a Contributor

Making a difference with Open Source Software

OSCON 2013

Vanessa Hurst
@DBNess
Software has an image problem
Best jobs for fast growth

If you're stalled or burned out, these fast-growing fields (with relatively low barriers to entry) can help you earn more, get ahead and put life back into your career.

1. Software Developer

Median pay: $82,400
Top pay: $118,000
10-year job growth: 32%
Total jobs: 380,000

The job: As technology evolves rapidly, companies continue to need developers to design, test, and debug software programs for mobile devices and apps. Since the landscape changes so often, even longtime developers frequently need to retrain and learn new programs, lowering the barriers to entry for job switchers.

How to switch: If you have a technical background, all you need are self-study courses for vendor-specific program certifications. Tech newbies should start with a programming course at a local college.

Quality of life ratings:

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<th>Personal satisfaction</th>
<th>Benefit to society</th>
<th>Low stress</th>
<th>Flexibility</th>
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<td>B</td>
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By Jessica Dickler, Anne C. Lee and Greg Swiatek

Best jobs for saving the world

The pay may be low (and the stress might be high), but in these jobs, you can feel confident you’re helping others. For many, that’s a priceless reason to switch.

1. Public School Teacher

Median pay: $50,400
Top pay: $77,500
10-year job growth: 13%
Total jobs: 2,640,000

The job: Becoming a teacher is one of the surest ways to have a positive impact on a young person’s life. Despite cuts to state and local government budgets, demand for K-12 teachers in special education, science and math is strong. Same goes for bilingual teachers. Plus, a large number of educators are expected to retire in the next 10 years.

How to switch: An alternative certification program can speed up the process, letting you skip an undergraduate degree in education. Get details at teach.gov.
Developers
Software *can* make a difference
Hulk: Brute Forces Everything
More meaningful force than Hulk
Daredevil: Locates Kids in Trouble
More accessible than Daredevil
Reconsider Open Source

Applications (not just tools)

== Case Studies for Learning
Reconsider Open Source Ecosystem of Transparency

== DRY (less duplication)
Reconsider Open Source

Open Infrastructure (version control + docs) == Accessibility

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Emergent Powers of Open Source

Applications (not just tools)
  == Case Studies for Learning

Ecosystem of Transparency
  == DRY (less duplication)

Open Infrastructure (version control + docs)
  == Accessibility

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Resources
(for Superheroes)
THANK YOU
FOR THE BOOKSHELVES
WE LOVE THEM!