

Life, The Universe and Everything

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Outline

1. Career Skills
2. Ambition
3. Ethics



Career Skills - Technical

Maintain your technical edge

- The technical world changes very fast
- You need to keep broadening and deepening your skills:
 - ◆ Challenging assignments
 - ◆ Self & Peer Learning
 - ◆ Conferences & Tutorials

Get a graduate Degree

- The ROI of an MS degree is huge
- Consider getting a Ph.D.

Learn the industry

- Conferences; Marketing; Trade Magazines (www.eetimes.com)

Become a Guru

- Develop unique, deep technical skills

Career Skills – Non Technical

Eventual Success Depends more on Emotional Intelligence than Technical Ability

Be genuinely interested in others

- Talking about yourself is boring
- Learn to be empathic

Develop an informal network

- People you can turn to, when you need unusual questions answered

Develop Communications Skills

- Concise & effective

Maintain a positive attitude

The last 10% of effort makes 90% of the difference

- Sweat the details
- Ask and answer the hard questions

Career Summary

Your performance appraisal should say

- Self-starter
- Completes tasks accurately, precisely and on-time
- Self-sufficient
- Gets on well with others
- Effective communicator
- Has unique and valuable technical skills

Career Goals

Money?

- Comfort or wealth?
- Comfort – follow advice above
- Wealth/higher level of “comfort” – much harder
 - ◆ Solve a problem that many people have (“customers”)
 - ◆ Watch out for the sharks

Independence?

- Get a Ph.D.
- Run your own company

Ego?

- Become a University Professor
- Start your own company
- Interact with the wider technical world, e.g. IEEE

Career Focus

Technical?

- Achieve “Guru-ship”
- Invention & Innovation, not Activity

Management?

- Lower/middle management
 - ◆ Not as attractive as it first might seem
 - ◆ Guidelines:
 - Check EVERYTHING
 - Manage risk
- Upper management
 - ◆ Global optimization & constant innovation/improvement

Entrepreneurial

- Solve customer’s problem

Decision Making Skills

Dont:

- Back into decisions
- Procrastinate overly
 - ◆ No decision is still a decision

Do:

- Collect necessary but sufficient data
 - ◆ Don't confuse data collection with indecision
- Manage risk but don't be risk adverse

Ethics

Follow the Golden Rule

Identify & respect the hard boundaries

Avoid the slippery slope

Final Comments

Life is for living, Live more of you life