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Were it not for a continuous flood of knowledgeable network and PC support workers, industry in the United Kingdom (and around the world) would be likely to be brought to its knees. Consequently, there's a constantly increasing demand for technically able people to support both the users themselves and their networks. As we get to grips with the multifaceted levels of technology, more and more qualified workers are being looked for to specialise in the many areas we rely on.

If your advisor doesn't ask you a lot of questions - chances are they're just a salesperson. If they're pushing towards a particular product before looking at your personality and whether you have any commercial experience, then it's definitely the case.

With a little commercial experience or certification, you may find that your starting point is different from a beginner.

Commencing with a user skills module first may be the ideal way to commence your computer program, but depends on your skill level.

The market provides a plethora of job availability in Information Technology. Picking the right one for you often proves challenging.

Since with no solid background in Information Technology, how should we possibly understand what someone in a particular job does?

Achieving any kind of right answer will only come through a thorough examination covering many changing factors:

- * Which type of person you are - what tasks do you get enjoyment from, and conversely - what you definitely don't enjoy.
- * Are you hoping to re-train because of a certain reason - for example, are you looking at working based at home (self-employment possibly)?
- * What priority do you place on salary vs job satisfaction?
- * Many students don't properly consider the energy expected to get fully certified.
- * You will need to take in what is different for each individual training area.

In all honesty, it's obvious that the only real way to research these issues is via a conversation with an advisor or professional that has experience of Information Technology (and chiefly the commercial needs.)

Most of us would love to think that our careers are safe and our work futures are protected, but the growing likelihood for the majority of jobs throughout the UK currently seems to be that the marketplace is far from secure.

In actuality, security now only emerges via a rapidly growing market, driven by a lack of trained workers. It's this shortage that creates the right environment for a secure market - a much more desirable situation.

The 2006 UK e-Skills survey showed that 26 percent of all available IT positions haven't been filled due to a lack of trained staff. Quite simply, we can't properly place more than just three out of every 4 jobs in Information Technology (IT).

Properly trained and commercially accredited new employees are therefore at an absolute premium, and it looks like they will be for many years to come.

In actuality, gaining new qualifications in IT throughout the coming years is very likely the finest career move you'll ever make.

Commercial certification is now, without a doubt, starting to replace the more academic tracks into IT - why then is this?

Vendor-based training (as it's known in the industry) is far more specialised and product-specific. The IT sector has acknowledged that specialisation is vital to handle a technically advancing workplace. Microsoft, CompTIA, CISCO and Adobe are the big boys in this field.

Of course, an appropriate degree of associated knowledge has to be learned, but core specialisation in the exact job role gives a commercially trained student a real head start.

Put yourself in the employer's position - and you required somebody who had very specific skills. What is easier: Wade your way through loads of academic qualifications from graduate applicants, asking for course details and which workplace skills they have, or choose a specific set of accreditations that exactly fulfil your criteria, and then select who you want to interview from that. The interview is then more about the person and how they'll fit in - instead of having to work out if they can do the job.

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