



Am I a Software
Developer?

Software Developer

- Problem solving
 - Ability to break problems down into small parts
- Explicit attention to detail
- Research
 - Look up concepts that are unknown
- Ability to read code you did not write
 - Learn as many languages as possible
- Must be able to accept responsibility
 - You own your mistakes, and you can't learn without making one
- Do not be afraid to try something new

Benefits

- Fun
- Challenging
- Very gratifying
- Very important
 - **Every** industry needs software
 - People respect software engineers / developers
- One of the highest paid & most respected professions
 - Great starting salaries
- Work in creative environments (sometimes)

Benefits

- Learn about a lot of things
 - Databases
 - Development Libraries
 - File formats
 - Networks
 - Encryption
 - Graphics Processing

Challenges

- Pressure
 - You MUST succeed (Failure is not an option)
- Long hours
 - Research time can exceed development time
 - Personal life sacrifice
- Sedentary
 - Try to exercise
- Exhausting
 - You use a lot of your brain

What to expect in the work force

- Regardless of experience, you will know more than some and less than others
- You tend to have 3 - 6 months to get acclimated
- Don't lie about what you know, instead be enthusiastic about the opportunity to learn
- Companies are willing to invest in you

Things you learn to live with

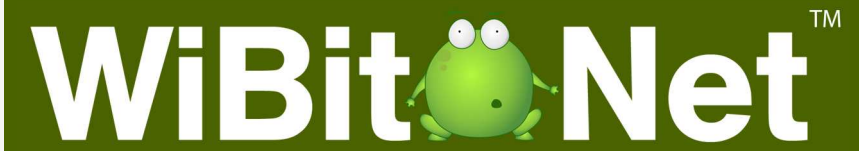
- Developers “time” is not 9 to 5
 - Inspiration strikes at the *most* inopportune moments
- Your work comes home with you
 - You **MUST** learn constantly
 - Technology is constantly changing
 - You **MUST** understand everything about your projects
- Industry is very diverse (Ages / Cultures)
 - Do not fight this. Embrace it
 - Older developers may have difficulties working with new technology and methodologies
 - Younger developers may have less respect for policy and procedure

Things you learn to live with

- Propose new ideas, but do not force them
 - Managers tend to be risk averse
 - Seniors and Managers **do not** want to be undermined
 - If you're right, they will realize it eventually
 - The best way to be right is to have other people's ideas fail
- Others may take credit for your ideas
 - Seniors and Managers may act as if they came up with ideas that you conceived and presented
 - This happens in every industry.
- Not every day is a victory

Developer Community

- ◉ Sharing is good
 - ◉ Take advantage of message boards
- ◉ At every opportunity, contribute back
 - ◉ Help others that need it
 - ◉ Be aware of company policy when it comes to sharing code (Copyright issues, etc)
 - ◉ Assist less talented developers, but don't do their job for them!
 - ◉ Help older developers stay current
 - ◉ The old way of doing things is usually not the best solution
- ◉ GNU/GPL Open Source is free to use!
 - ◉ Read usage agreements before distributing
- ◉ Developing is not a job, it's a lifestyle
- ◉ Always keep an open mind
 - ◉ Your way is NOT always the only or the best way



Am I *still* a
Software
Developer?

The End?
