A day in the life of a Software Developer:

We caught up with two students in software development to see what exactly it is that they really do.

Software development, according to IBM, can be defined as ''*a set of computer science activities dedicated to the process of creating, designing, deploying and supporting software*''

These students took the time to explain a day in the life of software development, how they started and mostly what their roles are in their respective teams.

When asked how a typical day for Nkosilathi Tauro looks like he shared with us,

''*A rough summary of my day to day as a software developer involves an early start. At*

8am Daily - I use this time to check any scheduled meetings coming up so that I can

plan accordingly.''

He further says that a very important part of his day includes a daily stand-up with his team, this ranges from sharing what they are working on, what difficulties they encounter and what needs to be achieved for the day.

Catching up with another software developer, Tamlin Duckworth, shares his day as,

'' *My normal day to day begins and ends with a meeting, so that the team knows what*

everyone is doing and what blockers they have. I usually find myself tackling bigger

tasks for the day in the morning with a fresh mind and then do smaller tasks after lunch.''

A common thread that we noted from these two is that, time management, dealing with the bigger tasks first and teamwork are skills that are important in software development.

Now like any other profession there are typical skills and knowledge that are required in order to do the work. Tamlin shares some of the required skills needed in order to perform in Software development.

'' *I have html, css, JS basic Computer skills the skill however that has improved my work*

Progress is Googling, knowing how to structure questions and finding information in the

Fastest amount of time is very important.''

On the other end, Nkosilathi said,

'' *I come from a Technical background so I had a "natural" affinity to software development but I believe*

the required skills one needs to study software development and help them in their day to day tasks are

critical thinking, being analytical, are able to problem solve independently, be creative and one needs to

be resilient.''

Interestingly both developers agreed that competencies such as critical and analytical thinking, being creative and innovative are as important in building ones' career.

They further describe that people who are able to think outside the box, who are resilient in problem solving are the kinds of people who are best fitted for this industry.

If you see that this is a career path that you desire, the job market in tech is sprawling with various opportunities ranging from, web development, full stack development, GIS developer and many others depending on where your area of interest in coding is and what problems you seek to solve.

The greatest advantages in working in tech is that all industries require developers, from IT, Banks and credit unions, civil society and even research and development.

South African government deems the skill of software development as scarce, Common Quality, a company specializing in integration testing solutions reported that,'' The most high-in demand skill and one of the most difficult to secure on the South African market still remains within the software development field.'' and as a result remuneration packages tend to be slightly higher than other professions.

Offerzen, an online recruitment company in tech, offered a guideline of how much developers earn.

''The average developer's salary is around R39 298 and developers with a unique skill and experience can earn upwards of R90 000 per month''

This is obviously dependent on your area of expertise and location. But as you will clearly see software developers earn decently. As Tamlin said, '' your appearance doesn't matter in this industry! It's important to have a smart hardworking and adaptable mind in the tech industry.'' So all you need is the knack to do the work and keep an open mind around opportunities.