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TITLE: SAP Development Manager

DEGREE: BS in Mechanical Engineering, MBA,
PhD in Information Technology

Q: How did you select your college major, certification program, or career path?

A: I have always had an interest in this career path, specifically software engineering. Outside my regular college studies, I took extra courses relating to development in order to learn skills that would further my chosen field after I graduated. I figured that I should select a field that had almost a hundred percent job guarantee.

I looked at two key factors: 1) My interest 2) Which industry has a job guarantee?

Q: What was the biggest influence in your selection of career path?

A: Computers (PCs) and the internet made their impact in Kerala state (India) during the 1980s. Computers were a luxury then. I was surprised by the power of computers and the easy access to World Wide Web (WWW). Engineering students were getting job placements even before they graduated. That is the situation even now in the majority of countries.

Q: If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college/career, what would it be?

A: I would say software development or programming courses such as Java or C++ would have given me a stronger early start into the career path of my choice. In fact, having started earlier on multiple basic development courses, I could have had a multitude of different development or computer engineering paths from which to choose.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A: I get the opportunity to work with highly motivated and diverse individuals from different fields. I get to discuss innovative ideas/ software designs with several team members. Most important aspect is... I get to interact with very talented people on a daily basis.



Q: How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

A: The mission of our company is to improve the world today and for the future, by using renewable resources to create every day products used all around the world. International Paper also sponsors events such as Operation Feed, United Way, JDRF, and Blood Drive which make a positive impact on our society/community.

Q: What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your professional career?

A: I have been able to design, develop, test, and implement an ERP solution for a software firm. It was very interesting and challenging because I was empowered to make quality decisions in a timely manner without direction from senior management.

Q: What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

A: We put a lot of importance on people, customer satisfaction, and operational excellence. In my profession, I have the opportunity to contribute to all of these. This is daily motivation to perform to the best of my abilities. Because my field is constantly changing, I will always be able to learn and improve my skills.

Q: What advice would you share with K-12 students who are considering your profession?

A: STEM is the way to go. There are lot of interesting, challenging, and high paying jobs in areas related to STEM. You will be able to improve yourself and make the world a better place for present and future generations while also keeping yourself interested and entertained by the consistently growing technology and science.

