

Software Engineer

What is it?

A Software Engineer designs, builds and maintains computer programs and applications. This can include websites, mobile apps, games, operating systems, and software used by businesses, hospitals, schools and governments. Software Engineers use coding and problem-solving skills to create digital solutions that make systems work efficiently

Qualifications/Experience Required:

There are several routes into software engineering. Many people take a **degree in computer science, software engineering or a related subject**, but this is not the only pathway.

You can also start through **digital or software development apprenticeships**, such as a **Level 4 Software Developer Apprenticeship** or a **Digital and Technology Solutions Degree Apprenticeship**. Strong GCSEs and A levels (especially maths and computer science) are required.

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

- Enjoys problem-solving and logical thinking.
- Interested in computers and technology.
- Patient and able to focus for long periods.
- Willing to keep learning new skills.
- Comfortable working independently and in teams.

What the Work Involves:

- Writing and testing computer code.
- Designing software systems and applications.
- Fixing bugs and improving existing software.
- Working with other developers, designers and clients.
- Updating software to improve performance and security.
- Keeping skills up to date with new technologies and languages.

Money/Wage Guide:

- **Starting Salary: £26,000-£30,000**
- **Experienced Salary: £45,000-£70,000+**

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

Software engineering is a fast-growing career in the UK, with demand across almost every industry. With experience, Software Engineers can progress to roles such as **Senior Software Engineer, Solutions Architect, Technical Lead, or Engineering Manager**.

Typical weekly hours – 37 to 40 hours per week.

Some roles offer flexible hours or remote working

Related Opportunities:

- **Web Developer**
- **Cyber Security Analyst**
- **Game Developer**
- **Data Scientist**

Further Information:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/software-developer>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/software-systems/job-profile/software-engineer>