



ONE FOR THE FUTURE: Apps developers are crucial.

Creativity ***with no*** ***limits***

'APPS DEVELOPMENT IS NEW, FUN AND EXCITING'

Tanya de Vente-Bijker

ONE of the newest jobs on the block must be that of an applications developer. Whether you have an iPhone, Blackberry, HTC, Samsung Tablet or some other smart phone, the race for the best apps is a tough one.

Being an apps developer feels like being part of an evolutionary process, says Kishyr Ramdial, an apps developer at immedia.

"Four years ago when Steve Jobs announced the launch of the iPhone, we at immedia knew that mobile apps were going to be the future," says Ramdial.

He says they knew that mobile devices in general weren't going to look or behave the same as they did before the iPhone.

"Here we are four years later and Steve was right. Mobile devices have become more personal, fun – and to an extent – emotive. Staying ahead of the tech curve is both very important and very difficult and that's part of the reason I love my job."

It is a bit difficult to "study" to become an apps developer. Ramdial explains that depending on the platform you choose, you can either learn an entire skill set, or use your existing coding ability to advance to app development.

"Unfortunately, these skills aren't taught anywhere locally by tertiary institutions. But we hold regular iOS (the Apple mobile operating system) training courses that teach both beginners and advanced developers how to develop for iOS," he says.

However, if you're a Java or C-sharp developer, you can quickly get into either android or windows phone app development.

Software development has changed rapidly over the past five years.

from having engineering-driven apps to user-focused apps. The best personality type for this career would be one that strives to creating exciting experiences for their users," Ramdial says.

"You also need to be a team player because apps development is at its best when played as a team sport," he says.

Ramdial believes apps development is a creative process and you shouldn't limit it to hours in a working day. According to him, this job is fun and stressful, but stressful in a good way.

"Great apps developers don't have deadlines, they have challenges. For me, launching an app and getting it into an app store is the great part of my job. I love delighting the user and creating apps that are so intuitive and simple, that they would know how to use it before they use it, as if the app was created especially for them.

"One of the great things about technology is that geography doesn't matter anymore.

"All you need is an internet connection and a computer to accomplish anything. You can code apps from anywhere and take part in meetings via Skype," he says.

Ramdial says they have an open-plan office environment that encourages the sharing of ideas (with a great view of the ocean).

"But it really doesn't matter where you work, even if it's on the beach."

So where is the negative stuff about this job?

"I'm going to go out on a limb and say there probably isn't one. Creating apps isn't your typical job. It's new, fun and exciting. I've been doing it for four years now and so far it hasn't gotten old." – saca-reerfocus.co.za

Steve Jobs's iPhone launched the future

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