

Look at me now

Name: Tommy Technology

Age: 22

Job title: App developer

Company employed by: Apple

Favourite subjects at school: ICT and history.

Influential toys during childhood: Computer games, esp. Minecraft.

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A judge on Robot Wars!



Role model when growing up / who or what inspired you to become an app developer?

Steve Jobs had a really big influence on my life. One of my favourite quotes comes from him: “The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.”

Reason for career choice:

The latest mobile devices and applications are changing the way we communicate, do business, and access news and entertainment. Due to the way that the world has embraced the use of this technology, we app developers are currently in very high demand (and can therefore charge very competitive rates!).

Career pathway to date:

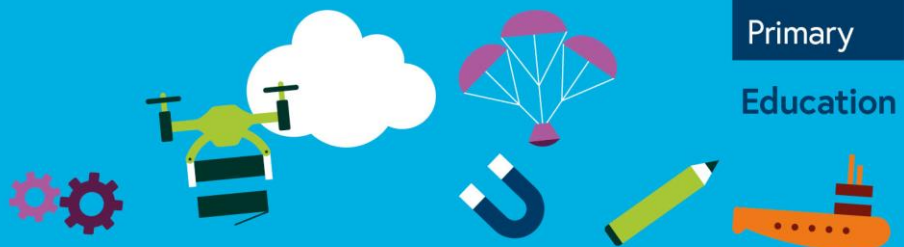
9 GCSEs. Video production apprenticeship. Working on apps for Orange and T-Mobile, before working for Apple.

If you could have any job what would it be and how does that differ to your current role?

I love my job but also love the history of computer games so I would love to remake some of the old computer games and bring them back into play for today’s gamers.

Tell us a little bit about your role. What does your typical day involve?

I’m not a morning person so I tend to go into the office later and finish a bit later. Once in the office, we always start with a team meeting to find out what everyone is working on as other people may have ideas for your apps that you hadn’t considered. I will often have a few meetings with external clients who I am developing apps for to make sure they are exactly right after launch, and I’ll be constantly checking my emails for new jobs coming in. In between all of that, you can find me in the design suite developing the apps that will soon be coming to your mobile device.



What do you love about your job and what would you change?

Mobile technology is moving so fast so I need to be constantly on my toes and thinking ahead. Apps can take time to develop and you still want them to be fresh and innovative when they hit your devices. This can bring pros and cons with it but it's always challenging!

What qualifications did you take at school/college?

9 GCSEs.

What gives you the most job satisfaction?

Looking over someone's shoulder on the train and seeing them use an app that I have developed.

What's the most unexpected thing about your job?

You never know who will be on the other end of the phone and asking you to develop an app for them. Employers and businesses are realising just how influential and informative apps can be and are wanting to be part of this popular culture. The problem can be making sure that you develop an app that works best for them, which may not necessarily always be what they first ring up about!

If you could give one piece of advice to a young person who is considering a career in STEM (science, technology, engineering or maths), what would it be?

Don't let anything or anyone stand in your way. Live your best life and do what you love. For me, I get to do what I love every day and that wouldn't be possible without STEM.

What are the biggest implications your work will/could have in the future?

Apps really are being used by everyone all over the world. The challenge is making the best apps for the right reasons.

What excites you most about STEM?

You never know where the technology will take you. I have worked overseas, with a whole range of different clients, and on a wide variety of different projects. I'm still learning new skills every day and get paid for doing what I love.

