

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN FIVE EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Are you looking for a career in technology and wondering where the best opportunities reside? Then look no further than these five emerging technologies that look set to take over the job market across Asia. As technology recruiters, it's our duty to understand employer needs and prepare candidates to take advantage of these opportunities. If you're a fresh graduate or a seasoned veteran, here are the five most sought-after skills in the technology job market today.

## **Blockchain/Cryptocurrency**

If 2017 was the Year of Bitcoin, 2018 is looking like the Year of The Alt-Coin. Countless start-ups are looking to take advantage of the cryptocurrency fever and build businesses around this new industry. The demand for developers with experience in blockchain, decentralised applications and smart contract will only increase as this industry matures. As professional accreditations are few and far between, your best bet is to develop skills on your own and translate that to a career in cryptocurrency. Consider joining local meetups, participate in online forums and blogs and read as many whitepapers as you can to familiarise with the technology.

## **Internet of Things Developers**

From smart homes to smart cities, there are an incredible amount of new opportunities to create applications for this growing market. If you're fascinated with building customer facing applications and working to embed technology into physical things, this may be the perfect industry for you. Employers are seeking candidates with experience in cloud architecture, web engineering and system design for highly available and scalable projects. A recent study from Business Insider Intelligence estimates that by 2020, there will be 24 billion IoT devices enabled worldwide. Needless to say, there will be high demand for candidates in the Internet of Things industry. The greatest demand for IoT developers is coming from both large multinational consumer goods companies and technology start-ups.

## **AR/VR Developers**

Until recently, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality have been closely associated with the gaming industry. However, we are starting to see an increase in demand for these skills across engineering, education and entertainment organisations as well. The amazing aspect of VR and AR is that it will impact many different sectors. From virtual walkthroughs, virtual classrooms and 3D animations, the scope of virtual and augmented reality is truly limitless. If you're considering a career in VR and AR, we would suggest you join local meetups, attend webinars/conferences and network with anyone associated in this domain. The landscape is changing every day, so it's important to stay current and well-informed in this industry.

## **AI/Machine Learning/Data Analytics**

Not necessarily a recent technology, as Artificial Intelligence has been around for decades but with the rise of virtual assistants, chatbots and robo-advising, the demand for AI developers, machine learning experts and data analysts are exploding across

industries such as finance, insurance and consumer goods. A recent study by the McKinsey Global Institute found a shortage of 1.5 million highly trained data and AI professionals. Employers are looking for candidates with computer science backgrounds, strong programming skills and experience with artificial intelligence, machine learning or natural language processing. With the increase in customer data, financial service institutions have already demonstrated a growing demand for AI, Machine Learning and Data Analysts.

## Cybersecurity Experts

Finally, Cybersecurity has become a board-level topic due to high profile data breaches, ransomware threats and severe financial losses across the globe. You can't find a tech executive that doesn't lose sleep over cybersecurity issues. From denial of service attacks to security intrusions, cybersecurity initiatives are at the forefront of financial conglomerates, insurance multinationals and even government entities. For 2018 and beyond, we are seeing an increase in demand for digital forensics experts, cloud security architects, security application developers and technology risk and compliance professionals. To obtain or develop a career in this space, it's important to educate yourself about the current landscape, emerging threats and security challenges facing organisations across the globe.

If you're thinking of retraining or entering a new field in the technology sector, then it is important to research the technology, the trends and opportunities so you can fully evaluate how you may best fit into a firm or industry. We are always interested to hear from our readers, so drop us a message or comment and let us know what you think.

### About the Author



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*Jack is a Senior Consultant on the IT team, based in Hong Kong. He is responsible for the recruitment of IT professionals across the financial services sector in Asia.*

*Jack worked as an IT professional as a business analyst, application support analyst and software tester in the financial services and telecommunications sectors. His extensive first hand experience and passion for technology means he is well placed to deliver exceptionally talented IT professionals to clients, and he has successfully worked on mandates across investment banks, asset management firms and hedge funds. He specialises in recruiting application and system developers in the front and back office.*

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