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Many students nowadays have a very difficult time in deciding which degree is the best for them. I must admit, I have gone through the same thing. There are so many options out there and a range of possibilities that can be overbearing. Sometimes I wish it were easier to choose, or even that no matter what I choose, it does not limit my potential to do more. That is exactly why I began to explore a degree in computer science. A computer science degree provides someone with the opportunity to do close to anything, if one will put in the effort to do so.

Though a degree provides us with the education in a specific area of study, what we choose to do with that degree afterwards completely depends on us. The freedom of what we study is truly a gift to be grateful for. Through research, I have come to realize that computer science takes that freedom to a whole new level, beyond the flexibility of what some other degrees may offer. Within the past thirty years specifically, the need for technology and its use has skyrocketed, making the need for learning how to create and use technology even more important. Almost all businesses have need for technology, whether it is sending out some mail, customizing software, designing robotics, or even as simple as accepting payment from clients. Not everyone is capable of maintaining the technology themselves, especially if they are already playing other important roles in the business. Of course, the minimal expertise in computing skills is looked at positively for any position.

According to an article post on Rasmussen College's website, "you're not likely to find a career path with a more optimistic outlook than computer science careers. With job opportunities increasing significantly and computer science salaries that escalate with experience" (Malvik). Statistics show the number of computer-related jobs has been steadily increasing over the years and is projected to continue expanding. Now many may also wonder, "okay, so there are a lot of jobs in this field, but what kind of jobs?" Fortunately, there are as many options as there are interests and the sky is the limit.

Let's discuss a few of the most popular and well paying job options that are out there currently. The first major career is in software applications which entails designing, evaluating, and modifying software. As mentioned before, in every business setting there is a need for software, ranging from in-office use to customer available applications for their smart phones. Another option, a bit more independent, is an information technology consultant. The job consists of advising clients on planning, design, installation, and usage of the technology to meet the business' needs. This job requires skills in most computer science areas in order to provide expertise. The salary range depends on how well you do the job and how beneficial you are to various businesses, from the beginning to the end.

Another important position is that of a database administrator, who is responsible for making sure everything works well in the database management systems (DBMS) that is used by the organization. Generally, this is where all the data gets stored; therefore, it is very important to ensure the recovery of such data in the case of an emergency. This role requires problem solving, working with other staff members, and providing reports, manuals, and documentation. Following comes game developing, which includes building games for all devices, consoles, and

computers. It requires a bit more creativity in the creation of a story, animation and design, not to mention the need for knowledge in programming so that it all can turn into a beautifully made game. It is important to have examples of your own work to get into this type of program. There are many more occupations that we could go into, but another key job could be considered web design. Our key source of information these days is through the internet, and there are many people looking to put their information out into the world through the web. The job includes planning, designing, and maintaining the website so that it functions without error.

We could go on for a while about all the different opportunities out there; however, the best options are more of a matter of personal opinion. A degree in computer science will enable someone to make a positive difference in the world. One can make that difference through an organization, place of business, or a project an individual develops independently. That is what makes this career path great, no one is forced to rely on others' resources so much as personal abilities and determination. No matter where someone ends up in the world, there will always be something available to work on. Even if computer science is not the desired major, the knowledge and expertise developed will prove beneficial to a primary career, giving one an advantage over other candidates. The diversity in this degree also allows for development in collaboration as well, which is a great skill to develop. Seldom do people know where they may end up next in the computer science industry, but we do know that computing has become a part of all that we do, the decision of where we want to go depends on where we point ourselves.

## Works Cited

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