

Computer Geeks Aren't Born

A lot of folks ask me how I got started in this business. Many people assume I had to take years of schooling and others assume I was born with a mouse in my hand. The truth, however, is that I have very little formal training trouble shooting computer hardware problems. I do have a Bachelor degree in Electronic Engineering Technology but while attaining that degree I didn't even so much as touch a computer in more than just one class. In fact most all of the computer knowledge I have is self-taught out of necessity.

I bought my first computer during my freshman year of college in 1991. Soon after I realized my 286 computer was just too slow and wanted to upgrade it. Like most college kids, I didn't have any money and was forced to perform the work on my own. I purchased a used motherboard from one of the local computer shops and dived in. Low and behold, everything worked out. My news of success soon spread to friends and relatives who all wanted me to help them with their computer upgrades and within a matter of years I was buying junked out computers from the paper and rebuilding them for resale. As time went on a gathered more hands on experience and soon opened my own computer shop.

There are two main directions to go when someone is interested in perusing a career in computers, the hardware side or the software side. Typically, someone who is going to peruse the software side of computers will take one of two routes, programming or networking. If you wanted to become a software programmer you would normally pursue a degree in computer science. While attending college you would probably co-op at a company to gain hands on experience for writing code. Salary range will depend on what part of the United States you land a job. In this region, Atlanta would be the number one area for a well-paid programmer.

If you wanted to pursue a degree in networking, you could still get a degree in computer science, however your concentration would be more towards information technology. Another path you could follow if you wanted to become a network administrator is to take any of the network certification courses offered by places like Fountain Head College or Pellissippi State Community College. These course are designed by Microsoft, Novel, or CompTia and will give you pertinent training to design and administer a network.

Not interested in the software side of computers? I don't blame you; I started out getting a minor in computer science and quickly realized that I didn't like programming even one bit. There are not that many paths to becoming a computer hardware expert. Most of the best techs I know are self-taught. However, CompTia does offer a certification course called A+ Certification that can be taken at a training facility such as New Horizons in West Knoxville. After completing the course work and successfully passing the tests you should have the same amount of experience as a technician that has been on the job for 6 months.

So as you can see there are many ways to become a computer geek. If you do decide to become some soft of computer expert be sure to keep that information on the down-low, otherwise you could find yourself at a relatives house every other night of the week fixing there computer. If you have a computer related question simply call Thomas or Roger at Computer Depot, 947-0749 or e-mail us at sales@computerdepotonline.com.

