Session 1

Ask An Old Guy

October 10, 2024

What We'll Cover

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1. Understanding IT Career Paths & Industry Evolution
2. Soft Skills, Communication, and Adapting to Change
3. Troubleshooting Strategies and Project Management
4. Managing Technical Debt and Effective Escalation
5. Scalability, Resilience, and Security
6. Team Dynamics, Vendor Selection, and Leading IT Teams
7. Career Growth, Ethics in IT, and Learning from Failure

Understanding IT Career Paths

Session Overview

- Introduction to key IT roles and career paths
- Industry trends and how technology has evolved over time
- Interactive exercises and group discussions
- Q&A session at the end

IT Roles Overview

- Software Developer
- Systems Administrator
- Network Engineer
- Cybersecurity Analyst
- DevOps Engineer
- Data Scientist
- IT Project Manager

Career Progression in IT

- Junior Developer → Senior Developer → Tech Lead → Architect
- Systems Administrator → Cloud Engineer → Infrastructure Architect
- Network Engineer → Senior Network Engineer → Network Architect
- Project Manager → Senior PM → Program Manager → IT Director

IT Certifications & Their Importance

- AWS, Microsoft Azure, Cisco Certifications (CCNA, CCNP)
- CompTIA (Security+, Network+)
- PMP (Project Management Professional)
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)

Career Path Planning Activity

- Select two roles from the list and outline a 5-year career plan.

- Include milestones like certifications, skills development, and experience needed.

Industry Trends and Evolution

The Evolution of IT

- 1970s-1990s: Mainframes and early computers
- 2000s: The rise of the internet, PCs, and client-server models
- 2010s: Cloud computing, mobile apps, DevOps
- 2020s: AI, blockchain, cybersecurity, and quantum computing

Current Industry Trends

- Cloud Computing and Serverless Architectures
- AI and Machine Learning
- Cybersecurity (Zero Trust Architecture, Data Privacy)
- Blockchain and Decentralized Applications
- Internet of Things (IoT) and Edge Computing
- Quantum Computing (future potential)

Group Activity: Emerging Trends in IT

- Break into small groups (3-4 people per group).

- Each group chooses one emerging trend (e.g., AI, blockchain, cloud computing) and researches how it might impact a specific IT role.

- Groups present their findings after 20 minutes.

Ask an old guy!