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COVID-19 and Your Career

The novel Covid-19 is causing a major disruption in people's everyday lives. Some were laid off of their only source of income, and forced to rely on stimulus checks of only \$1200. Moreover, they have to pray that their rent is frozen or that they have enough credit to pull out a loan. With this in mind we ask ourselves, how are those in the technology field coping with Covid-19? Unlike many who were forced to sit at a computer to learn or meet with people they had never met with over a Wi-Fi connection, many in the field of computer science and engineering are used to this sort of thing.

One word comes to mind when considering the widespread effects of Covid-19 and who is permitted to leave the house. "Essential". This word has an interpretive definition that defines the era of Covid-19. So we question, are software developers essential? Like many other jobs, they can be essential based on context. If a software developer is working on the production of an app that lets you track cases of Covid-19 near you and the closest testing centers and their cost, I would say they are essential. However, developers that create apps that allow you to record yourself and add different audio effects may not pose as essential. I do think that any software developer has the ability to be essential and since the job does not generally require exposure to others, it is justified to keep around. To accommodate social distancing, we were told to take whatever we could of our desk setup to our homes. They provided us \$1000 to spend on an at-home setup should we need it and we now conduct most of our meeting on zoom. If we must go to the office for files or any other reason, only a few of us are allowed at separate times. I am still working from home as most computer science projects can be done through email and Zoom anyway. I am still making my full check because the current software demands have not changed from businesses (paying upfront), but if this continued longer I am not sure about the software demands for certain businesses. The hours are about the same but it feels a lot messier.

Before we had a 9a-3p in the office and most meetings and code was produced and tested with the exception of a few late nights. Now all of our sleep schedules are all over the place and we find ourselves coding very late into the night. Other engineers such as product development engineers, security testing engineers, businesses, and others have been affected by my job being affected. The difference between the services provided now is that it is purely online. We do not have in person meetings or conferences like before.