Transitioning into Tech

DILRUBA MALIK

About Me

- QA engineering experience for 17+ years
- Currently leading QA team at Palo Alto Networks
- Last 7 years testing IoT applications
- Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology
- Masters in Engineering Management and leadership from Santa Clara University
- Speaking in many technical/non-technical forums to inspire Women in Tech

Why Tech?

1. Job Availability
2. Flexibility
3. High Pay
4. Performance vs Growth
5. Learning opportunity
6. Future of Work

What Tech Career means

Need to understand the following:

- What do you want from life?
- What conditions do you prefer to work in?
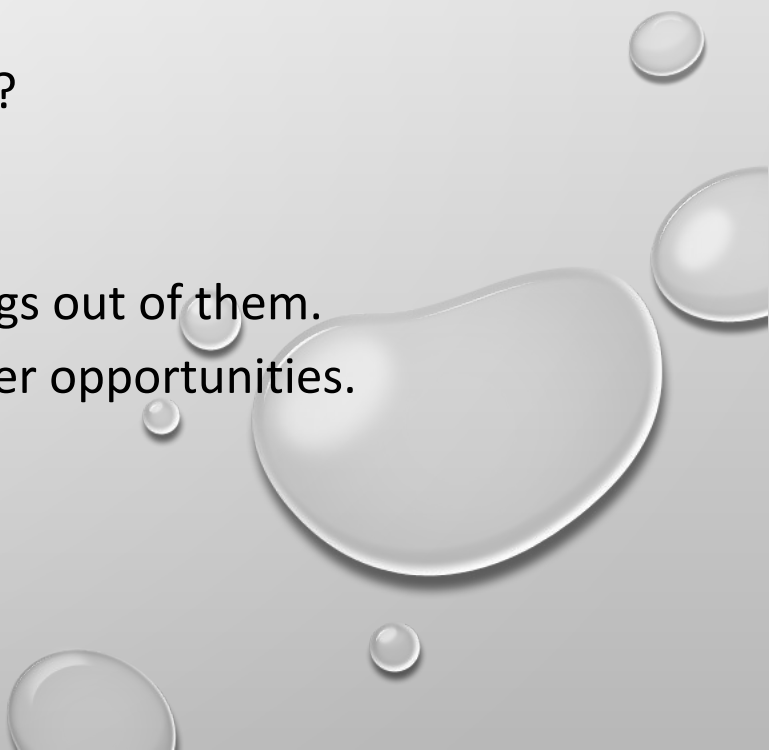- What type of people would you like to work with?

What You Enjoy?

Ask yourself:

● What do you enjoy doing the most?
● What qualities do others like about you and why?
● What skills do you have that help you achieve the best results while working on something?
● What are the best abilities you have that help you outperform others?

Once you have the answer to all of these questions:

● Make a list of everything you like to do and round up the 10 best things out of them.
● Determine which of these options you can convert into lucrative career opportunities.

Find a Tech Sector

- Financial services
- Media
- Public Sector
- Healthcare
- Retail
- Travel
- Manufacturing
- Energy and Resources

Find a Suitable Title

* Software Developer

* Cloud Engineering

* Data Engineering

* Business Intelligence

* Robotic Process Automation

* Software Testing

* Technical Operations

* Software Engineering

* Cyber Security and Risk Management

* Website design and Web Development

* IT Sales

* Technical Support

* Multimedia Programming

* Data Analysis

* Hardware engineering

* Hardware engineering

* Game development

* App development

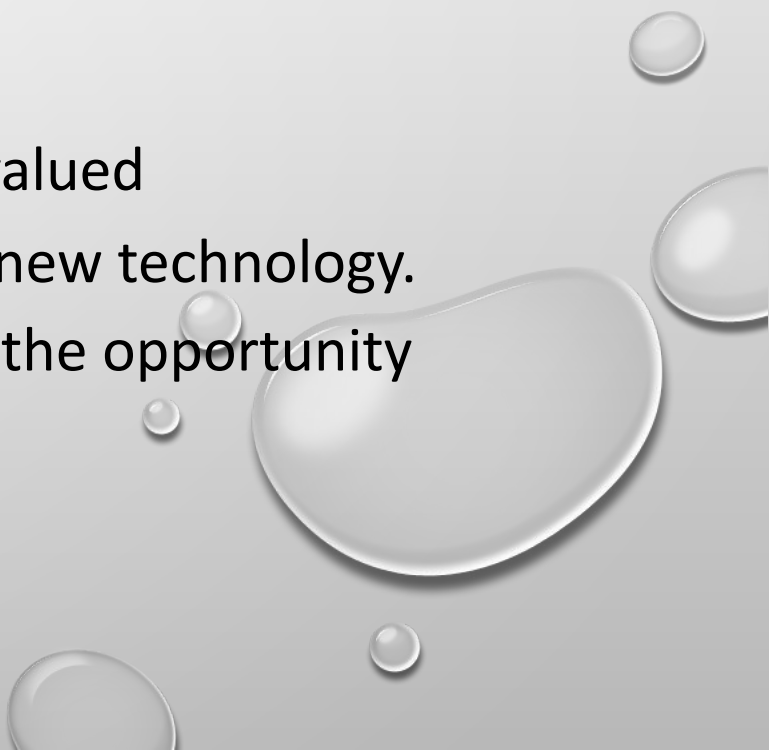* Software Quality Assurance

* Program Management

Identify Transferable Skills

- Not All Tech job required coding/programming - break the Myth
- Soft Skill like Communication and Collaboration is Must Have
- Problem- Solving: Understand how to add Value for the problem/solution
- Availability, Adaptability are important attribute
- Project Management: Handling multiple things is a faster environment
- Learning attitude is the key

Develop Essential Skills

- You need to build your muscle
- Opportunity to learn is everywhere
- Formal degree is not required
- Youtube, Udemy, LinkedIn Learning is a great resource
- Certification from Udemy, Coursera, LinkedIn Learning is valued
- Technology is constantly changing, Keep up with learning new technology.
- Cloud computing, AI and machine learning: tech provides the opportunity to work diversely

Build Your Professional Network

- Any targeted Position, Who is working on it?
- Network with the person to understand what skill is important
- What type certificate or course will be helpful
- What keywords are important when they look for Resume
- Be Proactive; Find times to meet with multiple personnel

Find a Mentor

- Ask Professional personnel to be your Mentor
- Ask for Recommendation
- Review Resume with hiring Managers
- Request to forward Resume
- Request Mock Interview

Customize your Resume

- Any Tech Role, Hiring manager look at your Resume for 15 sec
- Details are important but need Keywords to get selected
- Relevant Skills and what the position is looking for should match
- AI/data driven tool are used for selecting Resume
- Matching the Keywords is important

Gain Real Experience/Volunteer

- How to gain experience before hired?
- Volunteer work can be in school or non profit organization
- Office apps like Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suite(Slides, docs, spreadsheet)
- Video conferencing apps like Zoom and Skype
- Online collaborative software like Slack, Microsoft Teams
- Aim for Internship positions
- Reach out to tech organizations that offer you the opportunity to Learn by doing

Never Give up

- Once you decide, Don't listen to everyone's advice
- If you choose a hard goal for yourself, you should keep trying
- Your career is yours no one knows better than you
- First start is hard; After that it's just your persistency and efficiency

LET'S PROVE YOU CAN DO IT!

QUESTIONS?