



# Stuart Clark

Technical Leader/Developer Advocate at Cisco

## Real-life Programmers

This series lets developers share their journey as a way to inspire others. Get to know Stuart:

### Initial goal

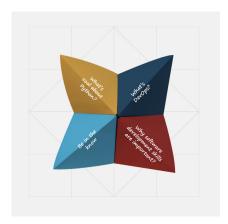
Left school at 16 to become an apprentice hairdresser, I worked in London, Beverley Hills, New Zealand, and had celebrity clients. When I was 28, I realized that I needed a change.

#### His journey

My father-in-law worked in IT and earned as much in a day as I was in a month. Had an interest in computers but always thought it was for smart people. After they installed fiber Internet in our village in 2006, I bought a router and became the go-to person when people wanted help. My father-in-law loaned me a book covering CCNA, and I read it cover-to-cover. Twice. I put myself through CCNA certification and started banging on doors.

### How stars aligned for success

- My hairdressing background—talking to people all the time—has helped me have success within this industry
- I started going into automation because I wanted to solve challenges business was facing
- Programmability started for me—taking a software-engineer DevOps approach to my work—when it became impossible to manage everything manually



Is programming in your future? Click to find out.



#### Favorite part of the job



I enjoy being an advocate because it gives me the ability to help people.

#### Advice for others

- 1. Do a little coding every day (doesn't matter if it's bad code—eventually, it will become great code)
- 2. Don't feel like you have to learn everything overnight (find the thing that interests you—focus on that!)

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