

Brilliant Careers for STEM students in the South West: CETSAT

Employees:

50

Location:

Yeovil, Bridgwater, London

Industry:

IT support, architecture
and security

What does CETSAT do?

CETSTAT has four key areas: tech services, cyber security, bespoke software and digital transformation. This means everything from managing smart buildings, to make sure all the sensors and networks function properly, to keeping hackers at bay and building specialist software for businesses with unique needs.

What is a 'smart building'?

Smart buildings are buildings that take advantage of the 'internet of things', a new technology that allows for thousands of interconnected sensors and devices embedded into a building. Security for smart buildings is a huge challenge because of the size and depth of the cybernetworks at play, but the stakes are high: when everything from lights to the lifts are connected to the internet, hackers could wreak havoc.

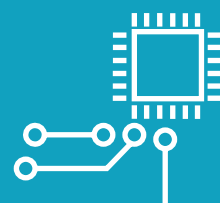
Do you need a degree to work at a company like CETSTAT?

CETSTAT hire people from A-level leavers to university graduates or older. Founder Durgan Cooper told us it's all about the person and their skills, not just their qualifications.

Three key questions:

- How do you think like a hacker?
- How do you build the right software for a unique company?
- How do you design a security network from the ground up?

Technology is a job for life. There are so many opportunities and different niches. I always say to new starters: keep your eyes open, because there's such a range of jobs out there you don't want to miss out.





Employee profile: Durgan Cooper, founder

What do you most enjoy about your job?

I feel like an artist. I start with a blank sheet of paper. But then I've got to understand all the nuances of each unique building. How do you secure it? How will you create all the security zones within it? From there, I come up with a design for how the building can operate so it will be secure.

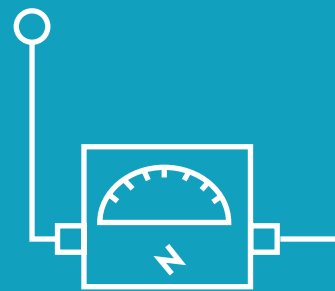
What advice would you give to someone who is interested in going into tech and becoming a software developer or a network architect?

If you go into tech you'll have a job for life: there are so many opportunities out there, so many niches in fields you've never even heard of. When I meet new starters I always tell them to keep their eyes open because there are so many great new opportunities that might come their way.

Asking questions is important too. When I was 15 I wanted to join the army, I never anticipated I'd have a career in tech. But now when I speak to people most people tell me they want to be a hacker, and to do that you need to understand a lot of things: how computers transfer information, how networks function and what they need to work, how firewalls work. So always keep asking questions and get the knowledge you need.

Why did you decide to set up your business in Somerset?

I think the past two years has shown you can work anywhere.



These days, you can earn a top London salary living in rural Cornwall, or even travelling. I've spoken to people who have just decided to go and work remotely in foreign countries for months at a time: tech gives you that freedom.

For me, I came back to the South West after spending a decade in London because I wanted to live down here, rather than getting married and living in London. The majority of our staff are South West-based too, even though our clients are mostly based in London.