HOW TO GET INTO IT & COMPUTER SCIENCE

By Daniel Raynaud, Founder & CEO of Jiveworld

Daniel Raynaud is the founder and CEO of Jiveworld, an ed-tech company for second language acquisition. He is a 20-year veteran (and critic) of Silicon Valley and investor in/advisor to many startups.

How did you choose your career in IT & Computer Science?

I found that there was this immense beauty to algorithms.

How to succeed in IT & Computer Science?

It depends. There are different roles in IT. Writing new software is one thing, but there's also what you'd call an IT manager, which is managing information systems. So within the world of IT, it isn't just one skill set or one mindset. But whichever one you choose, you have to really love what you are doing and practice, practice, practice.

What are the myths surrounding IT & Computer Science?

There are a few things that I have learned, I wouldn't necessarily call them myths but for example, I've learned that the number of people who really understand what is interesting for experimenting, are usually very small, and most of the other people that you see crowding around are followers.

What are the key skills to succeed in the 21st Century?

I think the key skill is being able to formulate your own opinion about things and not follow the herd. And this is really important nowadays, because life is changing. The world is changing really, really fast. And not just technologically but also socially.

What habits do you recommend in order to succeed in any career?

Give yourself time to recharge, nurture yourself. For example by turning off screens at nightime, not looking at your phone, before you go to bed, and when you wake up. Getting out and getting fresh air, exercise, and eating well.

What's the best piece of advice you've been given, or that you'd like to give to our audience?

Learn how to persuade and how to make a pitch to close a deal.

What's a mistake that you've made, and what did you learn from it?

Apply the wisdom that you gained from your past mistakes to your current situation.

If they asked, who would you drop everything for and happily just make their coffee?

I think it's going to be anyone, anyone who can stand against the ice and can take an unpopular stance on principle.

Are there any resources that inspire you, or that you'd like to recommend?

I think one of the most influential thinkers and writers that I've been exposed to, from my 20s and I keep on revisiting this, Ivan Illich, who is just a phenomenal genius and original thinker.

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