

Subject: what do software engineers make?

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One of the things we will talk about in this course is your professional development. Students pursuing degrees in electrical engineering tend to focus more on hardware; computer engineers focus on embedded systems; bioelectrical engineers focus on medical devices.

The upper end of the salary spectrum for careers in software has been exploding in recent years due to the growth in the Internet (full-stack developers) and artificial intelligence (data scientists). This is one of the reasons I teach this course - I want you to be able to qualify for jobs in software.

Google is one of the companies that despite large layoffs this year, is paying top dollar for good software engineers:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12326073/Google-salaries-revealed-Tech-giants-based-workers-receiving-average-279-802-year-software-engineers-rake-1-3-million-isnt-best-ones.html>

Even when you factor in cost of living, Google is paying very well. In fact, the so-called FAANG companies (Meta (formerly Facebook), Amazon, Apple, Netflix, and Alphabet (formerly Google)) all pay top dollar for good engineers.

There is no end in sight in the demand for software engineers. Jobs in hardware, on the other hand, have been increasingly moving out of the U.S., or shifting from devices to embedded systems. It appears there is going to be a push to restart semiconductor manufacturing in the U.S., so we will see growth in microelectronics opportunities in the next 5 to 10 years. We haven't seen high salaries in these fields for a variety of reasons that are beyond the scope of this email and a discussion for another day.

Just some things to think about... the choices you make in your UG program will have a long-term impact on your quality of life.

-Joe