PortfolioDive

YOUR FREE CAREER STARTER GUIDE

Learn tech. Build skills. Grow your future.

A practical guide to choosing one technology direction, learning the fundamentals, creating proof of your skills and preparing for real opportunities.

1. Choose one direction

Your first goal is not to master every technology. Select a direction that matches the problems you like solving.

PATH	STARTER SKILLS	FIRST SHOWCASE PROJECT
AI Engineering	Python, APIs, AI fundamentals, retrieval, evaluation	AI website assistant
Cybersecurity	Networking, Windows/Linux, logs, incident response	SOC log analysis lab
Web Development	HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, deployment	Live responsive portfolio
IT Support	Windows, networks, Microsoft 365, troubleshooting	Onboarding and troubleshooting kit
Cloud Engineering	Linux, cloud fundamentals, identity, deployment	Secure cloud website deployment
Tech Freelancing	Client research, delivery, proposals, case studies	Client service proposal pack

2. Learn using a simple weekly rhythm

Three learning sessions: Spend 30–60 minutes each on a focused concept and short exercise.

One project session: Apply the concept to the thing you are building.

Your 30-day action plan

WEEK 1 · PICK A PATH

Choose one outcome, identify prerequisite skills, set a realistic study schedule and choose a course provider.

WEEK 2 · LEARN AND PRACTICE

Complete small exercises. Keep notes, screenshots and a troubleshooting diary.

WEEK 3 · BUILD A DEMO

Turn the lessons into a working demo. Add a GitHub README and document the architecture.

WEEK 4 · SHOW YOUR WORK

Check accessibility and security where relevant. Publish a case study and update your CV or service page.

Your six-part portfolio checklist

- ☐ A clear statement of the problem
- ☐ A link to the project or repository
- ☐ A concise overview of tools and architecture
- ☐ Screenshots or a short demonstration
- ☐ A note about testing, security and limitations
- ☐ A reflection on what you would improve next

Remember: a certification can validate knowledge, but a practical project helps someone see how you apply it. Both can be useful; neither guarantees employment.

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FREE, TRUSTED PLACES TO BEGIN

Build your learning toolkit

AI and machine learning

Google Machine Learning Crash Course — developers.google.com/machine-learning/crash-course

Microsoft and cloud

Microsoft Learn — learn.microsoft.com

Cloud foundations

AWS Educate — aws.amazon.com/education/awseducate

Networking and cyber

Cisco Networking Academy — netacad.com

Hands-on web development

freeCodeCamp — freecodecamp.org/learn

Version control

GitHub Skills — skills.github.com

Web security labs

PortSwigger Web Security Academy — portswigger.net/web-security

Good next steps

1. Choose one track. 2. Complete one beginner course. 3. Build one demonstration project. 4. Publish your learning notes. 5. Improve your CV or client portfolio.

PortfolioDive: https://portfoliodive.com

Note: third-party course availability, exam costs and requirements can change. Always verify the official provider. This guide is educational and makes no guaranteed employment or income claims.