

The importance of soft skills

Abbas Javan Jafari

Software Quality Lab

Introduction

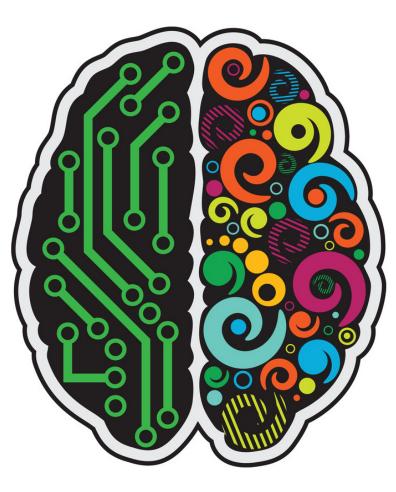
- Ferdowsi University Alumni
- O Information security analyst at FUM CERT
- Vice President of SSCES-FUM
- Editor at ESCAPE magazine
- Teaching assistant for 8 semesters
- O Current graduate student Secure software development (@ SQLab)



What is a soft skill?

O Hard skills such as:

- Mathematics
- **O** Physics
- Programming
- **O** Soft skills such as:
 - O Communication
 - O Time management
 - Self confidence





Do I need soft skills?

Success in academia

 Developing strong connections with your professors (recommendations!) – the 7th semester is too late

• Ability to talk about your research and convince others of its importance (post-graduate opportunities)

• Success in industry:

- Convincing others to invest in you and your ideas
- Having good connections (Atitec)



What hard skills have helped me the most?

O Programming

 Not just for industry! (proof of concept, understanding complicated concepts)

O English language

• Not just for academia (CERT projects)

O Converting ideas to results





What soft skills have helped me the most?

O Self motivation

 Remind yourself why you're doing this!

Communication

- O Create a strong network of
 - colleagues and professors





How do I learn soft skills?

O Look at extra work as an opportunity

• Those few extra steps can open new doors

O Courses do not end with the semester

O Don't only focus on grades

• Participate in extra-curricular projects

• Teaching assistants!





Benefits of being a TA

- Deep understanding of the subject
- Practicing communication skills
- Practicing time management and responsibility
- Developing strong connections with professors (projects)
- Improving your CV through teaching experience





When should I learn these skills?

OUndergraduate is the best (and only?) time to learn these

skills effectively

O Life gets busier as you go on

Opportunities come and go

• A well rounded person...







Thank you for your attention

abbasjavan89@gmail.com

A-1- Choosing the right work opportunities

• Work to learn, not to earn

O Invest in yourself and your future

• You won't always have this chance!

