

Software Engineer

Meredith is a software engineer who is passionate about accessibility and inclusivity. Meredith works at Google on the Chrome Accessibility team, adding support for accessibility features to the web platform to make sure it caters to the needs of people with disabilities. Find out more:

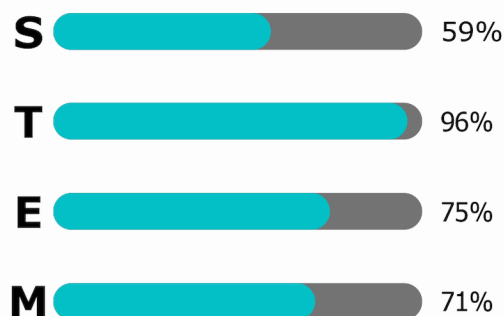
futureyouaustralia.com.au/pathfinders/meredith



'I can make sure the internet is for everyone, and I love it.'

STEM Meter

How much Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) does this job use?



Source: jobsandskills.gov.au

5 reasons why you should do this job

- 1 Help everyone use the internet
- 2 Solve problems in creative ways
- 3 Always learning new things
- 4 Travel opportunities
- 5 Work with lots of different people

3 STEM skills required for this job

Programming

Evaluation

Analysis

Subjects to develop these skills

Digital Technologies, Mathematics

English, HASS, Science, Technologies, the Arts

Science, Mathematics

A day in the life of a software engineer

- 6.30am** I get myself out of bed and head to the gym before work.
- 8.30am** I finish at the gym and skate to work. I catch up with a friend before heading upstairs to grab breakfast. That's one of the best perks of working at Google - the free food!
- 9.00am** Get to my desk and begin the day. The first thing I do is check my emails. You get so many emails at Google (everyone calls it "The Firehose"). I dedicate the first 15-20 minutes of my morning to cleaning it out and organising everything.
- 9.15am** Mondays are my favourite day. It's still Sunday in the US, which means less meetings and I can get some solid work done. I remember I haven't showered after the gym yet, so I go do that.
- 9.30am** When I get back to my desk, one of my teammates has arrived so we spend some time catching up, talking about our weekends, music and video games.
- 10.00am** I work on the ChromeOS team! Did you know Google develops its own operating system? I work on a team that focuses on front-end work, making sure our apps and user interfaces look slick and polished! I write code and various 'experts' in the company review it to ensure that the code is of the best possible quality. I uploaded some code for review last week, and now I have some comments that I need to address.
- 10.30am** I take a quick break, play with my co-worker's dog, then back to work!
- 12.00pm** I address the comments in my code and upload my changes to be tested. This can take a while, so my teammate and I decide to break for lunch.
- LUNCH** Normally I have lunch on my own or with my very small team, but today I was with a big group. It was great to get to chat with other Googlers I don't normally socialise with, but it did mean lunch went very overtime.
- 1.15pm** I get back to my desk and have a quick look through the results of my tests, and alas, there are some failures :(This means I'll have to take a look at what failed so I can work on a fix.
- 1.30pm** I take a quick break to go get introduced to all the new interns who have just started, because I am one of their resident advisers. This is a voluntary role, but I'm excited to do my part in fostering a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.
- 2.00pm** Back at my desk again to fix those failures. Once I've fixed them, and also addressed a few minor review comments, I submit my changes again. Now it's time to start working on something new! I open up a fresh doc to put all my thoughts and design ideas into and start doing research. I spend a lot of time reading, making notes on things that are interesting or important.
- 3.45pm** My tests have finished running, and I have some comments from one of my reviewers. I ask them to clarify some of the comments, but since Google is a global company, that stretches across multiple timezones, that means waiting for a response.
- 5.30pm** Before I know it, it's already 5.30. I do one final check of my email. One of my dear friends has just started his internship, so we head out to celebrate. I am super-excited to have them around the office for the next three months!
- 7.30pm** After having an excellent time catching up with my friend, I head to my local pub's quiz night, which myself and a few other coworkers frequent on Mondays. We win a few vouchers before the end of the night!
- 9.30pm** Finally get home, pretty exhausted. Today was a very social day with all the interns starting and I am knackered. I play a little bit of guitar to wind down, and then get myself ready for bed.