



IT can take you anywhere... and everywhere

Lewis Shoulders is still in his teens, yet he's already a respected IT network technician—and in a job that many of us would envy.

Flying round the world, working on luxury yachts, rubbing shoulders with celebrities—it's amazing the places an IT career can take you.

Lewis Shoulders is just 18, and began his IT career just a year ago. After completing his CompTIA A+ and CompTIA Network+ certifications, Lewis joined Livewire Connections, which installs satellite communications on yachts, planes and cars to enable communication from anywhere in the world.

The systems have applications around the world, from celebrities' luxury yachts to military vehicles carrying out missions in hostile environments. Lewis is flown out to various global locations to install these systems.

Lewis studied CompTIA A+ at Seleta Training before going on to Zenos, where he was paid to train. He also took his CompTIA Network+ exam to prove his networking skills, which went beyond Zenos's standard offer, but Zenos was able to offer him the certification for half price. "Zenos helped set up interviews and the CompTIA certifications gave me the foot in the door I needed to get my first IT job," Lewis says.

"The main skills needed in my job, once the satellite is installed, involve an understanding of computers and networks, so CompTIA certifications are really valuable here. In fact, the company looks for people with these skills, and teaches the satellite communications bit. Livewire is also constantly developing and improving technology, so it's a career where you never stop learning."

Commenting on why IT represents a good career for young people, Lewis believes that it is one of the few careers where you are judged entirely on merit. "Your age, background and who you know don't matter as long as you can demonstrate you can do the job. In fact, the younger you start in IT the better, because young people are brought up with IT, so they're better able to learn the skills. I'm only 18, but having passed CompTIA A+ and Network+, I can demonstrate to employers most of the relevant skills of an IT graduate."

"Some people think IT's just sitting at a computer, which maybe it can be if you're a coder, but there's a lot more to it than that. My job is really hands-on and involves building and fixing computers. In my spare time, I enjoy buying broken mopeds and fixing them, and IT's not that different in that you have to have an interest in how things work and how you can fix them or make them better."

PERSONAL
SUCCESS STORY

LEWIS
SHOULDERS



Lewis Shoulders leveraged his CompTIA certifications to get an exciting job in satellite-based network communications.

“It’s a pretty sociable job too. Most people I know in IT are great people and I have great colleagues. This type of work takes you to some really interesting clients, and the places I go and the people I meet have really expanded my view of the world.”

“Your age, background and who you know don’t matter as long as you can demonstrate you can do the job.”

“Whoever you’re working with, in IT you’re the first person anyone calls when something goes wrong—and most people are pretty grateful to have you around. When you’ve saved someone from losing all their work, or installed a system which makes their life much easier, you’re also usually the first person to get bought a drink after work.”

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CompTIA UK Ltd.

5th Floor, City Tower
40 Basinghall Street
London EC2V 5DE
+44 (0) 207 330 6060

www.comptia.org

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