

A SCIENTIST just like me



Margaret Black
Senior Software Engineer



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Hi there! I am Margaret Black – A senior software engineer



Where do I work?

I work for a company called Insider, Inc. Even though we have offices in Belfast, as a computer scientist, I can work anywhere in the world!

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I always loved art and music, and working with computers was a really fun way to be creative while I learned lots of brand-new skills.

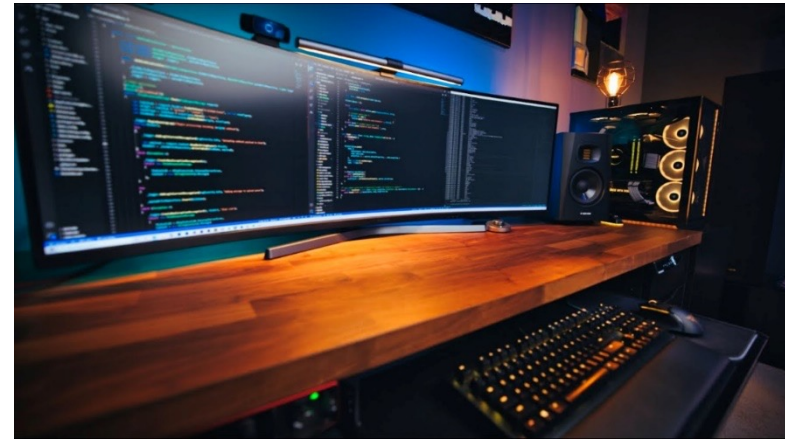
What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love baking, singing and dancing; they're my favourite things! My favourite recipe to make is chocolate cake – you can never have enough cake!

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What do I do as a senior software engineer ?

I do lots of different things in my day, but the main thing is coding. Users will ask us if we can make cool new things for them, so my team and I come up with solutions that make them happy. We build the code, then we test it a lot, and let the users use it!



How does what I do make the world a better place?

My job lets journalists get their stories out across the world, and lets people know about important news. My job helps people see the news that affects them, and raises awareness about important issues like climate change, and find out about fascinating new things too!

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What I like about my job

Every single day is different. My team gets to work on lots of different things, which means I get to learn a lot too. It always makes me feel really good when we finish our work and let the users get stuck in – if we can make their day better, then that makes me feel good too!



Challenges I have faced

Sometimes I have to learn things and build code very quickly, which can be scary! It can also be difficult as there aren't as many women who are computer scientists as men. Finding other women in STEM has helped me in my career, and I've made some friends too!

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If you want to be a senior software engineer, you need:

- ✦ **to be able to find solutions to problems** – there might be loads of different ways to do it, so think outside the box!
- ✦ **to use your imagination** to come up with new, better ways of doing things
- ✦ **to be able to work with lots of other people**, even if they aren't computer scientists



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a senior software engineer like Margaret Black?

Why? Why not?



- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a senior software engineer?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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Margaret Black is a STEM ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

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