



Developers: An Emerging Power Class

Executive Summary

A sweeping new study shows that developers are emerging as a new power class that is on the cusp of being recognized as a highly influential group in business and society. As business requirements changed, developers were uniquely suited to configure the enterprise for the digital economy, thereby pulling them up from basements and into boardrooms, and giving them a more prominent role in everyday culture. What's more, they've refused to let go of their unique collective identity in the process, bringing their fringe culture into the mainstream.

Traditionally considered a disenfranchised group that was underappreciated and not well understood in business, this class is now recognized as the source of ideas and innovation. They're empowered by employers, connected to government, well aware of their value in society and extremely optimistic about their future.

In March 2014, Chef commissioned a survey of 1,000 software developers in the U.S. to reveal trends in their business, societal, financial and political behavior. The research findings identify unique attributes of today's developers - from how they're plotting their careers to how they're getting involved in their communities and influencing governments. It demonstrates that this class is evolving as powerful, connected influencers, who are mobilizing across business and society, shaping more than code, and gaining prominence in the process.

Staying Power

Developers are **invested** and **committed** to their companies and see **longevity** in their current roles.

Despite the wealth of opportunity in front of developers today, they are not constantly searching for the next great career move, nor are they job hopping from one start-up to the next as society may represent them.

The Data Shows:

Software developers are in high demand - the profession was ranked the #1 best job of 2014 by U.S. News. While there is the common perception that those involved in software development are constantly changing jobs in search of the next big thing, Chef's survey found that they are career-monogamists.

Developers are in it for the long haul at their current companies.

- The average software developer plans to **stay** at his or her current company for **nine years**.
- Seventy percent of developers say they plan to stay at their current company for five years or more and 25 percent plan to stay for more than 10 years. Further, nearly half of them (49 percent) plan to be at their current job for more than 6 years.
- The health of the software developer role is also reflected in their job satisfaction. Eighty-two percent of software developers report they are **more satisfied** with their jobs than their peers who are not developers.

Economic Power

Developers are a **stable** class and are the **engine** powering our economy today and in the future.

Despite the ups and downs of technology companies, these rapidly changing environments are not creating unstable economic scenarios for developers.

The Data Shows:

The developer community is maturing and growing across the board in size, influence and financial power.

- More than two-thirds (69 percent) of developers describe their profession as “**recession-proof**.”
 - Developers see growth opportunities across industries including healthcare, manufacturing and education.
- Ninety-four percent expect to be a **revolutionary influence** in major segments of the economy during the next five years.
- Developers see their value growing and expect to be compensated in turn, but the overwhelming majority feel that they are being **paid what they are worth** (84 percent).
- With their rising value in the workplace, 66 percent expect to **get a raise** in the next 12 months, and more than half (56 percent) believe they will become a **millionaire** at some point.
- Three out of four developers feel **more financially secure** than their parents were at their current age.

Knowledge is Power

Developers are **pragmatic**, understanding the value of both technology and government, and are **informed and engaged** participants in civic activities.

Longstanding stereotypes misrepresent developers’ breadth of interests and collaborative nature, inaccurately portraying them as withdrawn from business and society.

The Data Shows:

Developers are knowledgeable and involved, and feel they have the power to influence the future that is developing around them personally, politically and professionally.

- Developers nearly **equally value** the political power of technology (51 percent) and government leaders (49 percent).
- Seventy-one percent of developers participated in political and civic activities in the last 12 months.
- While developers work extraordinary hours, they find time to give back. The average software developer spends 50 hours per year **volunteering**.
 - They value programs aimed at **helping the next generation** – 37 percent volunteered in support of education and 31 percent in youth services.
 - Developers understand the demand for their skillset, even outside of their professional lives. Fifty-three percent feel their time, for example **donating coding skills**, is a more valuable contribution than their money.
- Developers see the business value and necessity of working across boundaries both within and outside of their organizations.
 - Ninety-seven percent describe their working relationship with IT operations personnel and system admins as positive, with 57 percent describing it as “very positive.”
 - Most developers (80 percent) say that outsourcing has had a net positive impact on the quality of work produced by their company.

Empowered

Developers feel **valued** and **empowered** by their companies and in their profession.

Viewing developers as tactical executioners is a thing of the past.

The Data Shows:

Developers understand they are at the epicenter of today's digital economy and are uniquely suited to initiate ripples of change throughout the enterprise.

- Coders aren't just taking orders. Ninety-three percent of developers frequently feel **empowered** to suggest changes to business processes, products or services.
- Although organizations are looking to developers to provide and foster innovation to drive growth and profits, the barrier to innovation may in fact be this same need for growth and profits. Seventy-nine percent of respondents said that the pursuit of near-term profits may be holding their companies back from making long-term investments in innovative and unproven solutions.

- Ninety-five percent of developers feel they are **one of the most valued** employees at their company and 89 percent say their company's leadership see them as **essential**
 - However, this does not translate throughout the entire company and more work may still need to be done to communicate the value of developers. Research shows 45 percent of developers say that less than half of their colleagues appreciate their role and 25 percent say that less than a quarter of their colleagues fully appreciate and understand their company role.
- Developers feel a talented software developer has more **power to change society** than a talented public speaker (63 percent versus 37 percent).
- The software developing **skillset is more valuable** now than ever - compared to five years ago, 86 percent of developers feel their skills are now more valuable.

Developers:

An Emerging Power Class

Snapshot from a new study on the business, societal, financial and political trends of software developers from Chef.

Staying Power

The average software developer plans to stay at their company for **9 years**



82% of software developers are **more satisfied** with their jobs than non-developer peers



Economic Power

69% of developers describe their profession as **recession-proof**



More than half believe they will be a **millionaire** someday

Knowledge is Power

71% have **participated** in political and civic activities in the last year



The average software developer spends **50 hours** per year **volunteering**



Empowered

91% feel they are the **most valued** employees at their company



93% of developers frequently **feel empowered** to suggest changes to business processes, products or services





We are Chef.

We are IT automation for speed and awesomeness. We give you a model for automating IT infrastructure and applications that drive self-reliance across your development and operations teams. We are the Chef Community. We are tens of thousands strong. We are helping your businesses become faster, safer and more flexible, so you win in today's 24x7 digital economy. Join our movement today.

More information can be found at:

getchef.com | 1008 Western Avenue Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98104 | PH: 206.508.4799 | sales@getchef.com