Computing Careers, New Kinds of Jobs, and Computational Thinking
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PayScale.com lists the following computing jobs as popular [1].

![Computer Science - National Median Pay](source: payscale.com)

The job titles may not seem very exciting unless you get a sense of what computing professionals do.

In the United States, only a very small number of computing professionals work alone, in a dark closet, programming day and night. The rest work in teams on big projects, often have flex time to work from home because their job can be remote, meet with others in their own group or across the world by teleconference, and work on ... almost everything.

What do they work on? First consider the scientific method that you learned about in school that involved experiments, data and theories - which led to the scientific revolution. Now consider that almost every academic and business discipline is engaged in computationalizing some of their knowledge - from computational archaeology to computational zoology - what I call Computational X where X is any discipline. That means the scientific methods is now augmented with the computational method as a way for humans to acquire and organize knowledge and this computational thinking intersects every other discipline. I see this every day in my work - in a given day, my research may involve computational business, law, healthcare, theater, and much more.

Why does this matter? First, consider that the information technology division in corporations like Wal-Mart, JB Hunt, and Axiom is the "brains" that continually optimizes the corporation, giving it competitive advantage. So it matters to big business because it provides business with the competitive edge. Second, consider that you can take a computing background anywhere, get a good job, and choose the X you want to work on. Never be bored again!