

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Programming vs. Networking: Which Should a Beginner Focus On?](#)

haumeaquaoar - August 16, 2024, 12:39 pm

Hello everyone, would you recommend a beginner to focus on learning programming or networking? Which of these areas should I concentrate on, and to what depth should I pursue my learning?

Fancy_Bear - August 16, 2024, 12:58 pm

(Aug 16, 2024 12:39 PM)haumeaquaoar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hello everyone, would you recommend a beginner to focus on learning programming or networking? Which of these areas should I concentrate on, and to what depth should I pursue my learning?

Hello ,

If you're aiming for a well-rounded skill set, I'd recommend starting with programming. It's versatile and gives you the flexibility to branch out later. However, don't neglect networking, especially if you're leaning towards cybersecurity or IT infrastructure roles. Ultimately, the best path depends on your interests and career goals. Both fields complement each other, and having a mix of programming and networking knowledge will make you a more competent and versatile IT professional.

BlackSoulZN5006 - August 16, 2024, 1:15 pm

Scripting and command for security engineer, programming for software engineer, and networking for network engineer.

SovietBastard - August 16, 2024, 6:02 pm

(Aug 16, 2024 12:39 PM)haumeaquaoar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hello everyone, would you recommend a beginner to focus on learning programming or networking? Which of these areas should I concentrate on, and to what depth should I pursue my learning?

programming can involve networking, networking do not involve programming(usually), the answer is simple, networking first, programming then

M?tt - August 16, 2024, 7:02 pm

It's not to say that one is more important than the other but if you're going to be doing any programming or scripting, chances are it will tie into some kind of network activity or connecting to a host of some kind. With that in mind, it's important to know networking basics.

haumeaquaoar - August 17, 2024, 7:35 am

Thank you all for your help.

dobroy_000 - August 17, 2024, 9:51 am

(Aug 17, 2024 07:35 AM)haumeaquaoar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thank you all for your help.
networking first, programming later

(Aug 16, 2024 12:58 PM)Fancy_Bear Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hello ,

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programming and networking knowledge will make you a more competent and versatile IT professional.

your nickname really makes me curious

askmedia - August 17, 2024, 10:02 am

(Aug 16, 2024 06:02 PM)SovietBastard Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) programming can involve networking, networking do not involve programming(usually), the answer is simple, networking first, programming then

Networking and social networking is my thing

SovietBastard - August 17, 2024, 10:05 am

(Aug 17, 2024 10:02 AM)askmedia Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Networking and social networking is my thing good

clydeshelton - August 17, 2024, 2:09 pm

personally i think you should have a basic understanding of networking atleast before going into any programming

dotman094 - October 1, 2025, 5:59 am

Start with programming—you need to read code before you can exploit it.

Pick Python: one language covers scripts, web apps, and most CTF tools.

Once you can build a small CRUD site, pivot to networking basics (TCP/IP, subnetting, Wireshark); suddenly packet captures make sense because you know what the code was supposed to send.

Bottom line: code first, packets second—makes both paths easier.