Careers in the Digital Economy
What have Data Centres Ever Done for Me?

Case study:
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What do I do?
I work as an Executive Director for the Infrastructure Masons (iM) - a professional association guided by industry leaders responsible for the largest and most advanced digital infrastructure portfolios in the world. iM are very active in addressing the talent gap through Education, Training and Scholarships and promoting diversity.

The overarching aim of iM is to "Connect, Grow and Give Back"

I’m based in London, with 20 years in the sector having managed international teams supporting global data centre and communications infrastructures. I founded the UK Data Centre Interest Group (UKDCIG) in 2011, a highly respected forum for operators and consultants to exchange information, and co-founded the Data Centre Incident Reporting Network (DCiRN), a non profit initiative to make facilities safer and more reliable by anonymously sharing information on incidents.

Where did I start?
I started my data centre career almost 20 years ago on the Comms (Communication) side of the industry – working for UUNet/Pipex which was the United Kingdom’s first commercial Internet service provider (ISP). In 2003 I moved into ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) working for companies that provided technology into data centres to help them remotely manage their IT - and my role expanded to include Europe and the Middle East.
As data centres proliferated, particularly in the UK, so did their demands for energy, just as energy was getting expensive and concerns about environmental impact were being raised. In 2011 - I became involved in technologies and methodologies that help make Data centres more energy efficient.

**Why work in the sector?**

Every day, billions of people share updates on Facebook, do searches on Google, post pictures on Instagram, send money on PayPal, buy things on Alibaba. They don’t see the millions of miles of fibre cables and tens of millions of square feet of data center space and hundreds of millions of servers, switches and other hardware that enable them to do these things – and so much more, now taken for granted.

From the mundane to the critical, every aspect of our lives now depends upon digital infrastructure. There’s the Internet and all it enables, of course. But also: Farmers rely on it to grow our food. Police officers and firefighters rely on it to keep us safe. Banks rely on it to keep track of our money. Doctors rely on it to diagnose and treat what ails us.

Yet most people have no idea what it has taken to build that digital infrastructure, to power it, secure it, or maintain it.

One of the most pressing concerns facing the industry is the talent gap – there simply aren’t enough people in the pipeline to fill the positions needed to enable our industry to continue its rate of growth. These positions exist at all levels, from entry level Data Centre Technicians, to engineers, to network administrators, to senior full-stack infrastructure managers. Because our industry is growing so fast and is starved for people it offers challenging and interesting positions all over the world that pay substantially better than equivalent positions in other industries.

iMasons offer scholarships........

[https://imasons.org/scholarship/](https://imasons.org/scholarship/)