

Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

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The Myth of the Linear Tech Career: How Non-Traditional Paths Build Better Designers

The tech & design industry often presents a linear career progression narrative, suggesting that professionals must follow a specific path for success. However, my presentation challenges this assumption by exploring how non-traditional and cross-disciplinary experience enhances innovation in user experience (U.X.). Drawing from my own experiences, which ranges from a non-design role in Lagos-Nigeria, to leading UI/UX design projects, I look into how exposure to diverse work environments fosters adaptability & problem-solving skills that traditional pathways may not cultivate.

Furthermore, the talk will outline a framework for understanding the 'hidden curriculum' of non-linear careers. The key /important themes include transferable skills, cognitive flexibility, and the significance of diverse backgrounds in shaping human-centered tech solutions. The ultimate goal is to inspire designers and developers to view atypical career experiences as valuable assets rather than detours.

Keywords

non-linear careers, UX design, innovation, adaptability, AI/ML workforce

Biography

My name is Richard Adesoye, a UI/UX Designer and Founder of Adexr Technologies Ltd, a uk-based software development company. With a background spanning non-design roles in Lagos, Nigeria to designing digital products for global audiences, my work focuses on human-centered design, and creating inclusive user experiences across sectors. Additionally, with my passion for mentoring, I regularly speak on topics at the intersection of design, technology, and professional growth, encouraging others to leverage non-linear career paths as a strength.