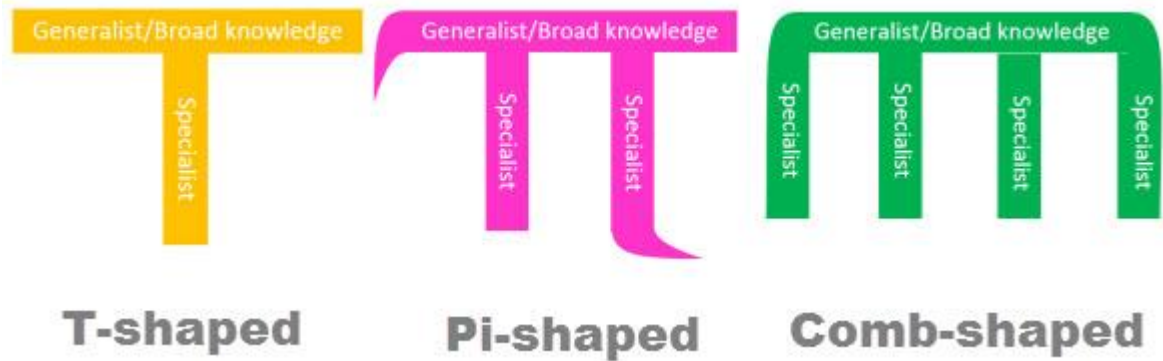


What are T-shaped, Pi-shaped and Comb-shaped skills, and which one should I aim for?

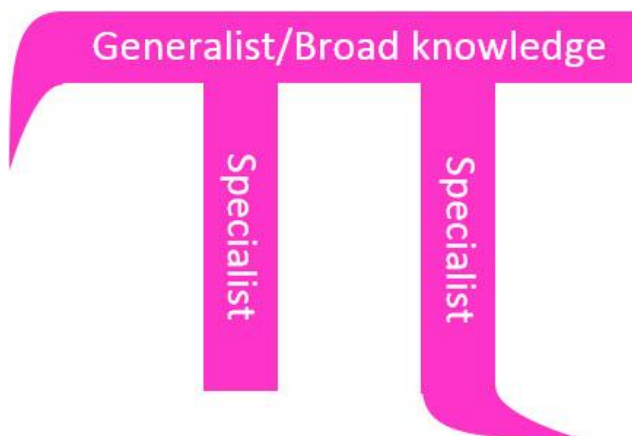


T-skills, Pi-Skills and Comb skills



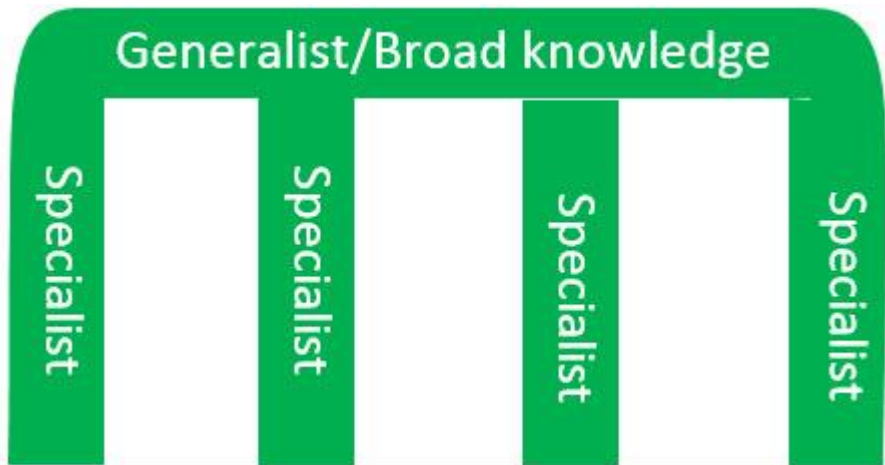
T-shaped skills

Shaped in the form of a T the person has a broad base with one area of expertise



Pi shaped skills

Broad base with two expertise areas which gives the shape of Pi



Comb shaped skills

Comb shaped skills

Broad base with multiple expertise areas which gives the shape of a comb

As for which one to aim for?

I would say start with T-skills, and that most people would be able to have two expertise areas, maybe with one being prioritized over the other. Comb-skills I believe are hard to maintain, and some can pull it off- but definitive not everybody and you can become 'Jack of all trades, master of none' instead of 'Jack of all trades, master of many'.

You have to know yourself, and know your limits, as well as how much time you can invest in maintaining the skills.

But what all the skills do have in common are two things. A broad and solid base that dominates the shape, and at least one area of expertise. This gives you two roles to work on, you as a generalist and you as a specialist.

Have a plan for both and make sure you don't forget to cover one of them. As a generalist you need to be aware of what is out there, past and present, and keep an eye on the future things (predictions). As a specialist you need to master one area well, and spend time learning the details and stay u to date on new releases/updates. You should also have good insight to competing technologies or similar technologies.

And that is what I think of that, and now I really want to know what your thoughts are!

- Are you a T, Pi or Comb, and is one better/more realistic than the other?