AI & Cloud Computing Career Guide

Your step-by-step roadmap to launching a successful tech career.

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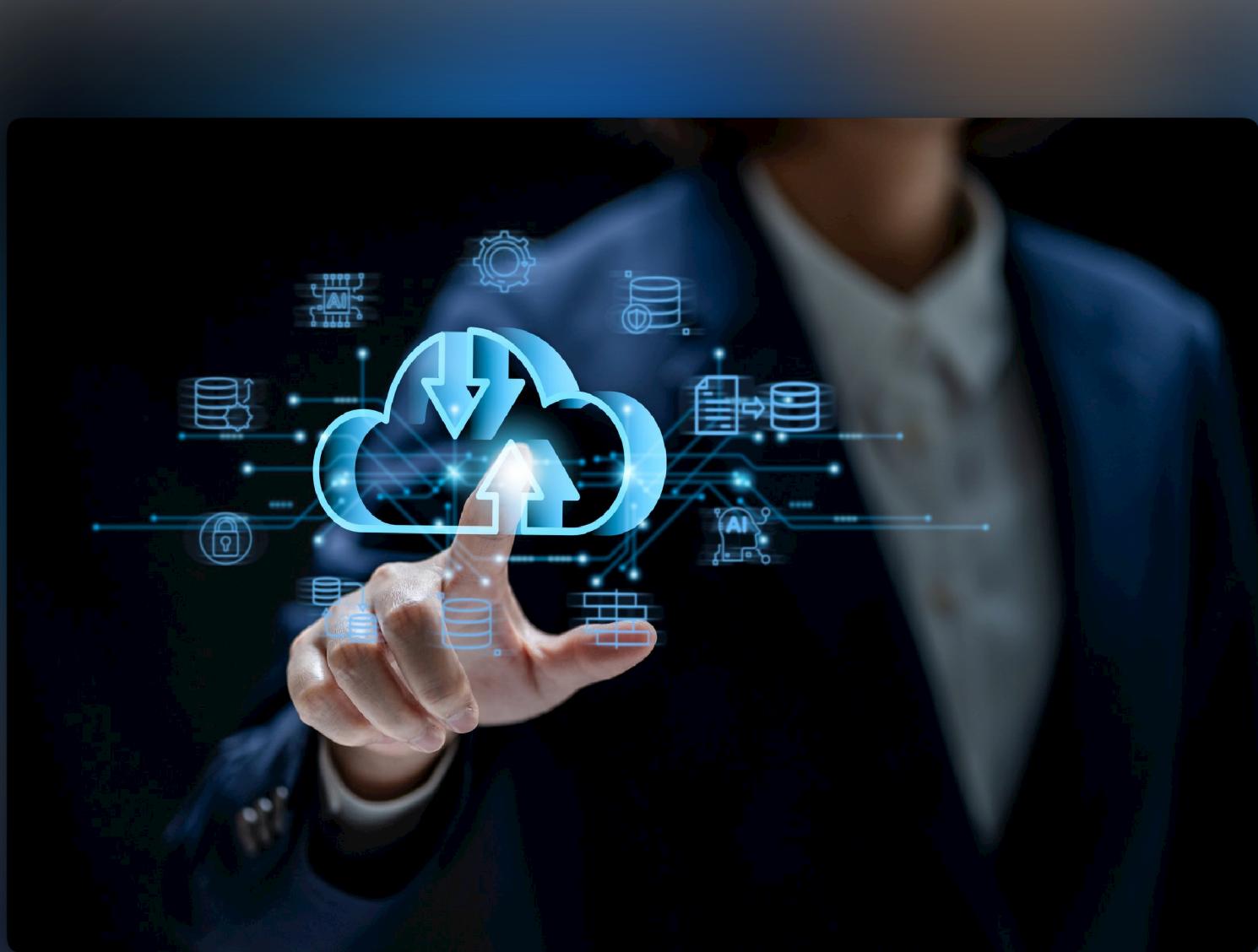
Introduction to AI & Cloud Computing Careers

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cloud Computing are reshaping the modern tech landscape. From smart assistants to scalable infrastructure powering your favorite apps, these two technologies are everywhere.

For beginners and career changers, this is a massive opportunity. With companies investing heavily in automation, data processing, and cloud-based systems, the demand for skilled professionals is skyrocketing.

Whether you're looking to upskill or start fresh, this guide will help you understand the opportunities available—and how to get started.

Skills Needed to Get Started

Technical Skills

- **Python Programming** – Essential for AI and data processing.
- **SQL** – Useful for managing and analyzing structured data.
- **Linux** – Commonly used in both AI and cloud environments.
- **Cloud Platforms** – Start with **AWS**, but Azure and Google Cloud are also great options.
- **Machine Learning Basics** – Understand core ML algorithms like regression, classification, and clustering.
- **Version Control** – Use Git to track your code.

Soft Skills

- **Problem-Solving** – Crucial for debugging, optimizing, and innovating.
- **Communication** – Many roles require collaboration and reporting to non-technical stakeholders.
- **Adaptability** – Tech changes fast; continuous learning is key.

Top Job Roles & Career Paths (with Salary Data)

These are some of the top-paying and most in-demand roles in the AI and cloud computing space:

1. AI Engineer

- **What They Do:** Design and build intelligent systems that learn from data.
- **Required Skills:** Python, machine learning, deep learning (TensorFlow, PyTorch).
- **Average U.S. Salary: $135,000 – $180,000/year**
- *Source: Glassdoor & Indeed (2024 data)*

2. Cloud Solutions Architect

- **What They Do:** Design and manage scalable cloud architectures for businesses.
- **Required Skills:** AWS, networking, infrastructure design, security.
- **Average U.S. Salary: $140,000 – $180,000/year**

3. Data Scientist

- **What They Do:** Analyze data and use AI techniques to discover trends and drive decisions.
- **Required Skills:** Python, statistics, SQL, machine learning libraries.
- **Average U.S. Salary: $115,000 – $160,000/year**
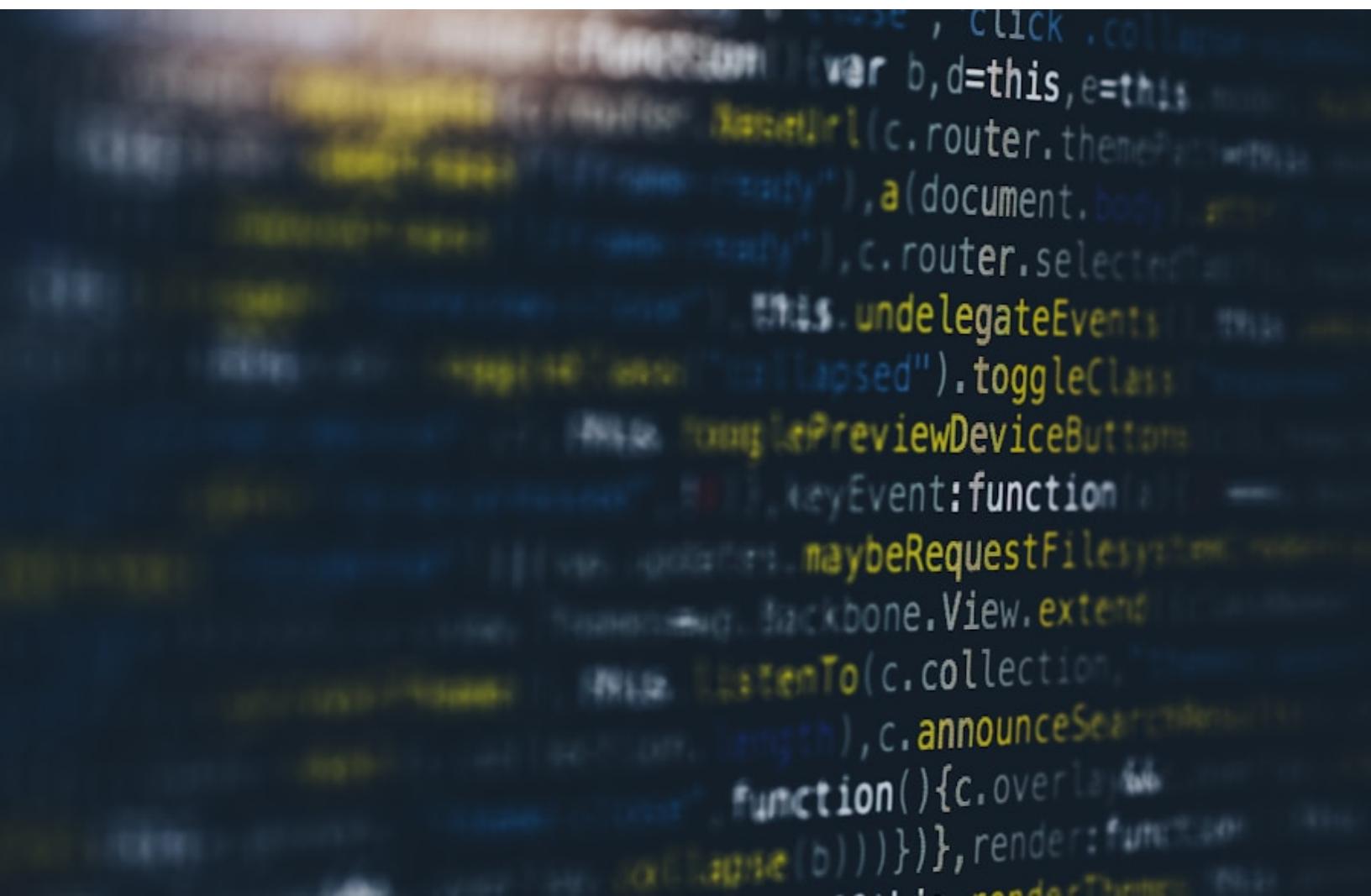
4. DevOps Engineer

- **What They Do:** Automate and streamline software delivery using cloud-based CI/CD pipelines.
- **Required Skills:** Docker, Kubernetes, scripting, AWS.
- **Average U.S. Salary: $110,000 – $150,000/year**
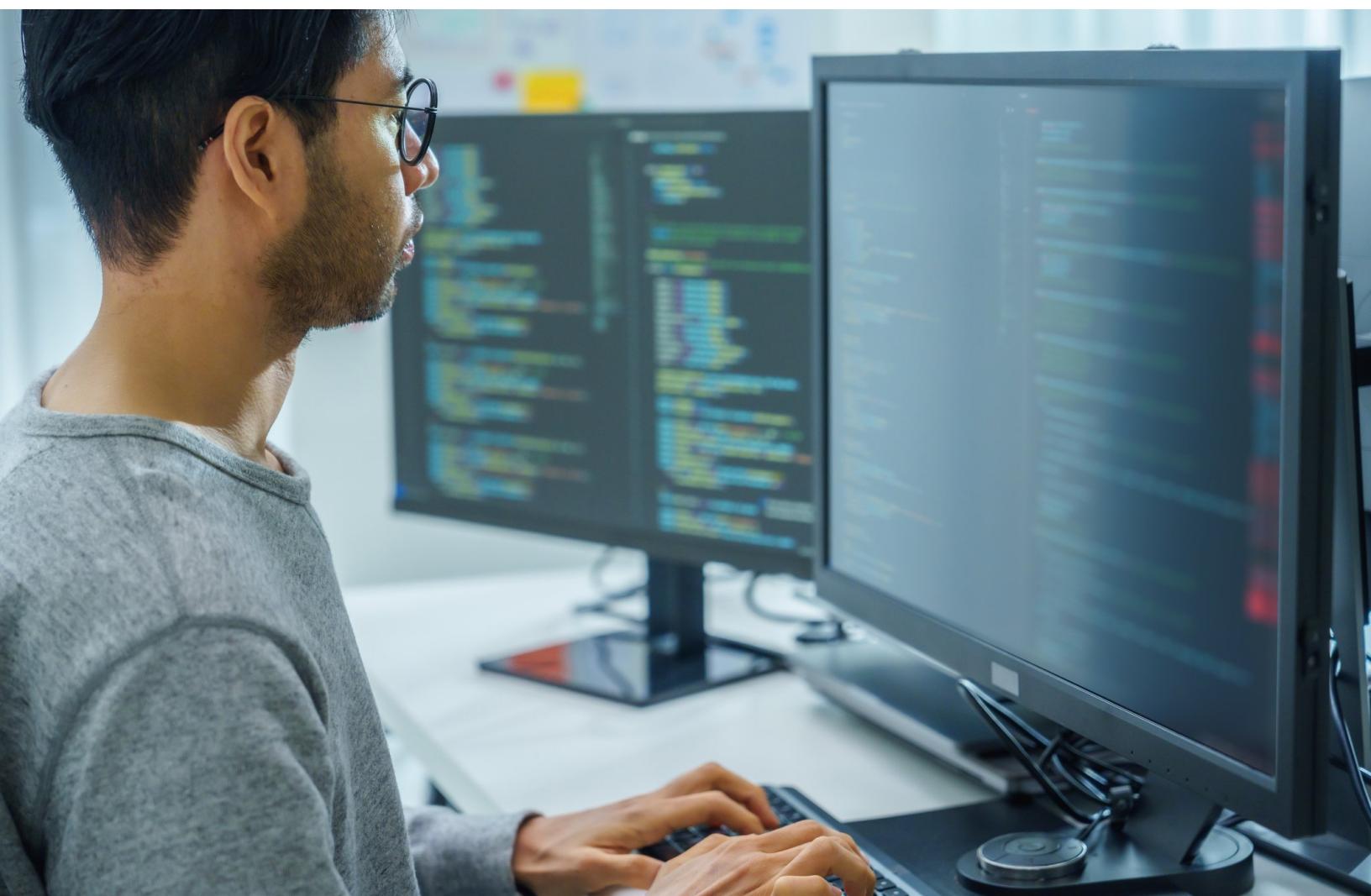
5. Cloud Security Specialist

- **What They Do:** Secure cloud platforms and ensure compliance with security standards.
- **Required Skills:** IAM, encryption, compliance (SOC2, HIPAA), threat detection.
- **Average U.S. Salary: $125,000 – $170,000/year**

Beginner's Learning Roadmap

Here's a simple roadmap to guide your first few months of learning:

Step 1: Learn Cloud and AI Fundamentals

- Sign up for the Destin Learning Cloud and AI Bootcamp
- Sign up for the AWS Free Tier.

Step 2: Learn the Basics

- Start with Python and SQL.
- Explore Linux and basic command-line tools.

Step 3: Introduction to AI & ML

- Learn the basics of machine learning and data processing.
- Try simple projects using libraries like scikit-learn.

Step 4: Build Real Projects

- Combine what you've learned: deploy a machine learning model to the cloud.
- Work on small portfolio projects to showcase your skills.

Step 5: Earn Certifications

- Consider starting with **AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner**.
- For AI, look into **Google AI** or **Microsoft AI Fundamentals**.

Next Steps & Call to Action

You don't need a degree or years of experience to get started in AI or Cloud Computing.

At **Destin Learning**, we've helped thousands of students just like you launch new careers with **hands-on labs**, **easy-to-follow training**, and **real-world projects**.

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