In a survey conducted last October by CIO Insight, over 61% of respondents said they felt that college graduates were poorly prepared to work in the real world of business IT. 74% of CIOs surveyed said that college IT graduates lacked skills in areas such as project management, and 71% considered them woefully unprepared for business operations.

This is something I have noticed both in my own college experience and my experience in the business IT world at corporations where I have worked. I have seen more than my fair share of fresh IT graduates who simply are not at all prepared to deal with the reality of IT in a business environment.

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I would also add one other thing to the list of reasons I think colleges aren't preparing students to work in the real world: They simply aren't teaching them what matters. After all, not many business IT employees spend their time writing low level data structures. They tend to work at a much higher level. But many, if not the majority of IT graduates come out of college having only a basic knowledge of the Java class library, for example, and virtually no knowledge of common third party libraries. Certainly one can learn this by reading the API documentation, but companies don't want to pay programmers to read API documentation for even common uses.

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