

Computer Weekly

READERS' LETTERS

Fall in A-level IT students will lead to skills shortage

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The fall in the number of A-level candidates taking computing or IT courses (computerweekly.com/231818.htm) is a matter of deep concern for the technology industry.

As Robin McGill points out, too few young people are taking science and technology subjects. In fact, this is a time when more, not fewer, young people should be considering IT careers, and this trend signals a very real possibility of an IT skills shortage in the UK in the near future.

If IT graduates are becoming scarce, how will the UK compete with the pace of technology innovation abroad? Look at the US – Facebook, Google and eBay are all leaders in their fields because they are embracing the right technology skills.

We need to nurture, cherish and support our IT graduates; after all, they could be the next Bill Gates.

Above all, students need to be enthused and inspired by the opportunities in IT and realise how crucial they could be in shaping the country's future.