# Week 2 (30/Jan/15)

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Week two began with a meeting with David and Thomas about my project. I filled them in on what I had thought about during the weekend. And it was decided on the next steps I would take to progress. The next step was to continue with my research and form a code skeleton for phase one. This was the objective for the remainder of the week

The code for phase one is to be made up of two F# applications one a client and the other a server with a messaging broker in the middle (ZeroMQ). The client application will allow the user enter a decimal value and country currency which to convert to and the country which to convert from(amount they would like to convert, Country currency which to exchange to, Country currency which to convert from) this message will then be forwarded to the server where an exchange rate for that county the user has chosen will be applied. The exchange rate of the country and the total value of the exchange will be returned to the client application.

Day two started with a progress meeting with David and Thomas, the meeting was only a few minutes. I continued with my research into the technologies I am going to use. I also made a few amendments to the programs I wrote yesterday. I added the ability to be able to send objects via serialization between the two applications. I meet with David O’Shea CCS Head of Merchant Operations, he gave me an overview of all the CCS products like DCC (Dynamic Currency Conversion) and MCP (Multi Currency Pricing). I think this will really help me with the daily stand up meeting to understand all the acronyms the software developer’s use as well as giving me a basic understanding of how the CCS products work

Day three was relatively quiet, just some more research into ZeroMQ and F#. Didn’t really have any interaction with my mentors as everybody in the office was extremely busy today. A major company which CCS provide software are in town to conduct meetings on products which they are provided. The company is also expected to visit the office tomorrow.

Thursday I finished up on my initial ZeroMQ research. I compiled a document made up of the main points and features which I thought where relevant. This document will be used for myself as a refresher before my final presentation of my project after week 6. It will also be stored in the companies documentation archives if it was ever needed at a later date. I spent the second half of the day shadowing David and Marta on a project they had been working on. They had been working on a demo website which the company use to demonstrate their products. It was a static website with information hardcoded just for display purposes. The website was written in html, css and javascript these where some technologies which I feel I was on a level playing field with David and Marta. I was able to add my thoughts on the way thing where done. It also provide me with another insight into the way the company works.

Friday was spent researching F# and advancing the scripts I had written already by using more functional programming method and no the OO method I am so used of. This took up the best part of the day. It was tough to do thing functionally that I would find second nature in Java or C# but this will all come with practice.

# Week 1 (23/Jan/15)

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This week I began week one of work placement with Continuum Commerce Solution situated in the Kerry Technology Park as part of the second semester of my third year of my Software Development course with IT Tralee.

My first day began with an induction period where I was introduced to the members of staff and given a brief overview of the different sections of the company such as IT support, Development and management. The work placement plan was outlined which included an individual project for the first 6 weeks, a group project was also proposed but as I am the only work placement student I am yet to find out what the second six weeks will entail . Just before the tea break all members of the staff meet for a stand up meeting, here members of all department describe what they have achieved yesterday and hope to achieve today. Each member of staff only talks for a few seconds.

On the second day, developers David Murphy, Thomas O Connell and Marta Doberschuetz gave me a choice of new technologies to research and ultimately pick a project to develop from these or any others I might like to use. I spent all morning and afternoon researching F#, RabbitMQ and MongoDB among other technologies. After lunch I was assigned to spend the remainder of the day shadowing David O’Shea working on “Reporting”. He showed me the magnitude of the work involved on a large scale database. He was very insightful and gave me an excellent overview of how the system worked.

Day three started with liaising with David, Thomas and Marta about the technology I was going to choose and give a brief description of the application I was going to implement.

Day four started again with liaising with David, Thomas and Marta to establish if I had a better concept of what I was trying to achieve in terms of my individual project. I showed a better understanding of F# and outlined my desire to move away from OO concepts and try functional programming concepts. I also completed my first F# program to talk to a MongoDB database.

Day Five consisted of security training, this consisted of myself and new H Dip student Noreen being give a power point presentation and watching a video on security and social engineering. This consisted of strict rules we would have to adhere to.

At half 10 I had to give my presentation of the project I was going to implement, this took place in a meeting room. About 8 software developer attended the presentation. I described the concepts of my project. All seemed happy with my choices of technologies and ideas I purposed. But the senior developers want me to look into technologies which the company may benefit from. So I decide to substitute after a discussion to swap RabbitMQ for ZeroMQ and MongoDB for Redis. This didn’t change the overall architecture of my project. Just added a little more research. I will add a clearer overview of what the project will entail after final sign off of use of the two new technologies(ZeroMq and Redis) on Monday.

I have noticed a strong emphasis on the staff improving their knowledge on existing and new technologies. Software developers take part in group learning activities like Book Club meeting where a chapter of a programming book is read and then discussed each week, dev training consists of each member of the software development department giving a presentation on a technology they are currently using outside of work. This is certainly a company moving in the right direction. I enjoyed my first week at CCS and look forward to the second week.