Articles from our Innovation Now newsletter

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| **Canadian Start-up BlueDot was first to warn of the Coronavirus outbreak by using AI and natural language generation**  The World Health Organisation informed of a flu-like outbreak in China on January 9.  The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention had cautioned a few days earlier, on January 6.  BlueDot was able to warn its clients of the outbreak on **December 31 2019**.  *“When we looked at it, we didn’t know if it was going to turn into a big*  *outbreak like this, but we had concerns because it had parallels to SARS ― it was associated with a market where animals were being sold and it was a pneumonia without a clear cause.”*  **Dr. Kamran Khan, Founder and CEO, BlueDot**    **Human and Artificial Intelligence working together**  BlueDot’s global early-warning system is a cloud-based GIS (Global Information System) platform integrating more than 100 diverse datasets, including global air travel and near real-time disease surveillance.  The algorithm combs through more than 100,000 online news reports, official statements, animal disease networks and airline ticketing data, in 65 languages, to create automated insights using natural language generation technology. The insight is analysed and verified by BlueDot's Epidemiologists who make sense of the data and draw conclusions from a scientific standpoint. A report is then collated and sent to BlueDot’s clients.  [More](https://boldly.joulecma.ca/blog/innovation-at-work-anticipating-infectious-disease-outbreaks)  **How EY is using AI to disrupt health care for all the right reasons.**  Innovation Now caught up with Chris Wayman, Director in our UK&I TAS Life Sciences Analytics Business based in London, to hear more about our partnership with Sensyne.    The NHS is the single largest integrated health care provider in the world, its patient records cover the entire UK population. When curated or consolidated into a single data set, NHS patient-level records trace a complete story of a patient’s health, wellness, diagnosis, treatments, medical procedures and outcomes from birth through to death.  Oxford-based Sensyne Health are working in partnership with EY to analyse real world evidence from NHS patient data.  Sensyne’s AI technology generates insights from anonymised patient medical data across multiple linked NHS datasets\*. Supported by EY’s strategic and operational experience, deep sector knowledge and analytical capabilities, these insights will deliver improved patient outcomes, reduced health care costs and accelerate medical research.  **The business model**  The Sensyne business model revolves around a unique double bottom line model. Commercialisation of insight-triggered pharmaceutical development and clinical trials provide an attractive return to Sensyne's shareholders, while making a positive social impact by improving health and generating wealth, estimated at £10bn, that can be shared with the NHS Trusts that provided patient data.    By partnering with EY, Sensyne will be able to create global capacity and build on its unique business model, with EY providing ‘design and build’ specialist resources covering strategy, analytics, cyber security, valuation, risk and governance capabilities. The partnership will also enable Sensyne to scale up its business further, responding to any potential government-led initiatives involving patient medical datasets.  Unlocking the power of health care data to fuel innovation in medical research and improve patient care is at the heart of today’s health care revolution. Analysis and insights generated from this unique NHS data set can help the UK Government achieve its health priorities on prevention, care and costs, place the NHS and the UK at the forefront of health care innovation, and make the NHS the envy of the world.  [More about the value of health care data](https://sites.ey.com/sites/SCORE/Submissions/Score%20146950014756235030000/1906-3182693%20value%20of%20health%20care%20data_v15.pdf)    \* In keeping with Sensyne Health’s ethical framework and business model, the NHS remains the controller of NHS patient data, and no data is sold or transferred to a third party.    **Chris Wayman** is a subject matter expert with 20+ years’ experience in the Life Science industry. Prior to joining EY, Chris was the practice leader in Capgemini’s (formerly IGATE’s) Life Science & Health care EMEA consulting operation. Chris held senior leadership roles at Pfizer including therapeutic area & Sandwich R&D leadership teams. Chris has a PhD. in Pharmacology from the University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff.  Contact [Chris](mailto:CWayman@uk.ey.com?subject=Innovation%20Now). |

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| **"Data prep is where time goes to die…**  *..If you’re like most analysts, you spend 80% of your day preparing data for basic analysis and reports, and just 20% delivering results that propel your career and the business forward."*  **Alteryx**    **EY Data Quality uses a process known as "fuzzy matching" to save you time when preparing data for analysis.**  Fuzzy matching automatically cleans and enhances the quality of your dataset to facilitate quicker, better data analysis.    **EY Data Quality is Machine Learning Enabled**  Within the fuzzy match capability, up to 10% of each process run will be taken for validation. These validations feedback in to the master dataset, so your results get better and better each time you use it.  **EY Data Quality fuzzy-matches your data to:**   * Standardise business names from your database * Match your business names to UK Companies House data and/or EY's dataset of international company names and/or your custom library * Geocode your address data within seconds to produce longitude and latitude coordinates that can help you with spatial analysis * Generate drivetime isochrones or reverse geocode from latitude & longitude co-ordinates |
| [**Try out EY Data Quality**](https://sites.ey.com/sites/ukitasinnovation/SitePages/Innovation_Products.aspx) |
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| **Retail is detail: StorePoint has it all mapped out** |
| StorePointGeo is an essential tool directly applicable to our work on retail client roll-out strategies, turnarounds, restructuring, investments, valuation, developments and white space. This web-based platform is quick, accurate, up-to-date and requires no downloads, installation or geographical information system specialism    StorePoint’s mapping system displays records of all multiple consumer touchpoints. It allows you to ascertain travel times around any existing or potential Client sites, then analyse amenities and services, demographics and consumer lifestyle profiles present within that travel time.    **Drill downs in StorePoint provide ability to :**   * Undertake gap analysis (either for roll-outs or for finding tenants for vacant units) * Review overlapping travel-times (for the analysis of sales cannibalisation) * Understand gross and net sales areas * Generate detailed displays of narrowly-defined demographic groups (such as 16-24 year olds, car owners, etc) using our hexagonal geography * Review planning pipeline data on residential, retail, leisure and office developments |
| **Use Case**  A recent Client engagement using StorePoint as the basis for the originating store data and the profiling capability for the Service Line Analytics team to generate the specific client insights.  cid:image002.jpg@01D5462F.EDC2C6F0  **The recommendations and visualisations from the data showed us how to:**   * Deal with sales cannibalisation and inherently weak sales from a poor catchment area with too much competition * Reduce store numbers by 48%, with a sales reduction of just 22% * Remodel layouts * Grow individual store sales by 53% * Improve individual store operating profit by 230% * Increase total profits by 20% * Improve total operating profit by 54%   **Outcome**   * This retailer was successfully sold to a Private Equity group, this work was credited with enabling the sale   To discuss the use of StorePoint within your Service Line and obtain a login please contact your Analytics Lead:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **EY Parthenon:** [Prakriti Thapa](mailto:Prakriti.Thapa@parthenon.ey.com?subject=Analytics)  **CF: Contact** [Irina Smirnova](mailto:Irina.Smirnova@uk.ey.com?subject=Analytics)  **TD:** [Nicholas Metzgen](mailto:Nicholas.Metzgen@uk.ey.com?subject=Analytics) | **Restructuring:** [Alex Reed](mailto:areed@uk.ey.com?subject=Analytics)  **OTS:** [Ken Ingram](mailto:KIngram@uk.ey.com?subject=Analytics)  **VME:** [Irina Smirnova](mailto:Irina.Smirnova@uk.ey.com?subject=Analytics) | |

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| **Microsoft Teams will eventually replace Skype for Business**  **Teams is a modern way of collaborating with rich chat, meetings and file sharing, all in a fresh and intuitive workspace.**  Cut down on email with real-time chat, share and co-author documents and host meetings from your desktop or mobile.  If you are on-the-go, you’ll really enjoy taking Teams with you.  **About channels**  Within a team, members can set up channels. Channels are topics of conversation that allow team members to communicate without the use of email or mobile messaging apps. Users can reply to posts with text as well as images, GIFs and emojis.  Direct messages allow users to send private messages to a specific user rather than a group of people.  **Meetings and calls**  Meetings or calls can be scheduled or created ad-hoc. Colleagues visiting your Teams channel will be able to see that a meeting is currently in progress.  **Add in an app**  The TASx Team organise our tasks by adding a Planner app (or tab) to our team channel. We can work on our tasks and checklists, share files and delegate tasks and get a notification in Teams when a task is assigned to one of us in Planner. There are many other apps available including Power Bi, SharePoint and Azure Dev ops.  [How to add a Planner tab to your team channel](https://support.office.com/en-us/article/use-planner-in-microsoft-teams-62798a9f-e8f7-4722-a700-27dd28a06ee0)  More about [Teams and Modern Workplace](https://sites.ey.com/sites/modernworkplace/SitePages/Learn-about-Teams.aspx)    Contact the [Modern Workplace](https://www.yammer.com/ey.com/#/threads/inGroup?type=in_group&feedId=12975927) team |
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| How earning a badge helped Josh crunched P&L accounts for 200 different entities – in an afternoon |
| Josh is currently studying towards becoming a chartered accountant with ICAS, holds a bronze badge in data integration and is working towards further badges in integration, visualisation and AI.    Josh why did you do a badge and how did you choose what badge to do?  The TD team were really keen for us to increase the use of analytics on our projects, so we went on a one-day Alteryx training course. It covered most of the basics, but it's hard to remember everything all in one go. I knew I'd need to get a handle on analytics and data integration and chose to do an integration badge learning about Alteryx, so I had the confidence to demonstrate our analytics capabilities with clients.  How is this badge relevant to your role and what have you done differently in your job?  I have saved myself so much time! For example in December I had a client with profit and loss accounts for 200 different entities. I was able to crunch these in one afternoon! Before I learned about analytics tools, there was a risk that this analysis would not have been done for our client as it would have taken too long and used too much of the client's budget.  Earning my badge had increased my technical knowledge and helped me to network - my reputation as an analytics expert in data integration has grown and people have asked me to help them.  How have you implemented the learning already?  Yes, I completed my badge a year ago and have used Alteryx on six or seven engagements since then. I wouldn't have done this just from the training day, the extra hours of learning at my own pace gave me confidence.  The one day training course showed me one specific use for analytics in my day job, but when I completed my own learning I saw Alteryx used for other purposes. That opened up a broader understanding of Alteryx and allowed me to think creatively about ways of applying my knowledge.  In addition we had some new joiners to the team so I was able to run training sessions as part of my contribution.  Would you recommend this badge to your team?  Yes! Two of my colleagues are doing their badges soon. The learning gives you much more confidence and my investment in time of 20 hours saved me over 200 hours!  There's occasionally commentary in the team about who has badges, so it's nice to have one.  What challenges did you face when doing the badge and how did you overcome these?  Fitting in 20 hours of learning for my bronze badge in was difficult but I overcame this by researching what learning to do before starting. When I found myself with an hour free I went to my list, and was able to make the best use of my time. Now that I know training hours have been reduced (to 15 hours for bronze, 30 for silver) I want to pursue my silver! It's on my to do list!  We all have Innovation on our Success Factors. Want an EY Badge of your own for your LEAD cycle? Check out the EY Badges site.  Did you know Udemy is available as a mobile app? |

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| **Map locations, calculate distances and travel times with TAS workflows**  The Issue:  Bringing your client's location (spatial) data to life with analytics and visualisations is really effective, but it can be complex and time consuming. [TAS Workflows](https://workflows.ey.net/gallery/#!apps/gallery) enable you to work with high volume location data to make this process much simpler and faster.  The Solution: Travel Time and Distance Calculator app  Used for calculating travel times and distances between suppliers, manufacturing / distribution centers, customers or employees in relation to sites, stores, offices or depots, which can be used for synergy calculations, distribution network optimisations and office relocation analysis.    The Results:  Data can be imported into Power BI in order to visualise the results providing a great client experience:  cid:image008.png@01D5D69B.BC59BBD0    Go to the [Travel Time and Distance Calculator](https://workflows.ey.net/gallery/#!app/Travel-Time-and-Distance-Calculator/5e26dde51cd7f925f8bc136d) app  For more information on the use cases or for help using the workflows, contact [TASx](mailto:tasx@uk.ey.com?subject=Workflows) and one of the team will be pleased to assist. |

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| Power BI is replacing Spotfire globally for TAS |
| Power BI is a cloud-based suite of business analytics and data visualisation tools used to analyse and share insights on client engagements.  Connect, model, and then explore your client’s data with visual reports that you can collaborate on, publish and share. Power BI integrates with other tools, including Microsoft Excel, so you can get up to speed and into the analysis quickly.  Power BI helps keep your client’s data secure and compliant—even when it’s exported.  Polish up your Power BI skills [here](https://performancemanager5.successfactors.eu/sf/learning?destUrl=https%3a%2f%2feygsl%2eplateau%2ecom%2flearning%2fuser%2fdeeplink%5fredirect%2ejsp%3flinkId%3dCATALOG%5fSEARCH%26sbArSel%3d%26keywords%3dGLOBALTASHRC5462717%2bstrategy%26selKeyWordHeader%3dGLOBALTASHRC5462717%26catSel%3dOnlineCourses%26srcSel%3d%26delMthSel%3d%26ILDateFrm%3d%26ILDateTo%3d%26ILBlend%3d%26ILSchd%3d%26fromSF%3dY&company=EYHRISPRD1).  The UK&I TAS Talent Development team are running instructor-led training sessions for TD teams in Birmingham, Edinburgh and London.  At the end of the program, you will be able to:   * Describe key benefits and features of using Power BI on TD engagements * Recognise the process to host Power BI Dashboards for clients * Identify resources and training to learn more about Power BI     Register of a class: To secure a space please register on Success Factors [here](https://performancemanager5.successfactors.eu/sf/learning?destUrl=https%3a%2f%2feygsl%2eplateau%2ecom%2flearning%2fuser%2fdeeplink%5fredirect%2ejsp%3flinkId%3dCATALOG%5fSEARCH%26sbArSel%3d%26keywords%3dGLOBALTASHRC5462717%2bstrategy%26selKeyWordHeader%3dGLOBALTASHRC5462717%26catSel%3dOnlineCourses%26srcSel%3d%26delMthSel%3d%26ILDateFrm%3d%26ILDateTo%3d%26ILBlend%3d%26ILSchd%3d%26fromSF%3dY&company=EYHRISPRD1&_s.crb=Id6HzYW0k%252bOIH%252f9Un4e07RA3RNE%253d) and then click on the search icon to take you directly to the course.  Contact [UK&I TAS Talent Development](mailto:ukitastalentdevelopment@uk.ey.com?subject=Power%20BI) for more information. |

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| TASx review and improve: New features in Accelerate |
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| The TASx team are always keen to review and improve our existing portfolio.  We’ve been working closely with TD to develop **Accelerate**, one of our flagship tools which uses A.I and NLG (Natural Language Generation).  Made by TD for TD, Accelerate helps create draft PowerPoint reports including graphics, tables and natural language analysis in seconds, using your dataset. |
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| So what’s new?   * Improved, macro-enabled Databook reduces your preparation time by performing initial analysis and populating your report * Improved calculations, (CAGR, variances and KPIs) Actual vs Budget and Functional Balance Sheets * Multiple new tabs available including; net debt, trade debtor and trade creditor tabs * New pages added including; Trade debtors, Trade creditors, Net debt, Actual vs Budget, Multiple Balance Sheets & PLs. Improvements on existing pages * Automatic graphics creation in Excel   Have an idea to make Accelerate even better? [Hit us up!](mailto:tasx@uk.ey.com?subject=Accelerate)  Click to access Accelerate: |
| [cid:image018.png@01D5D6AB.67A7CEA0](https://nlg.ey.com/) |

**New capabilities in TAS allowing you to build passive income from your regular engagements**

VME have developed programming scripts which enables EY to automatically and with no manual effort refresh datasets, analytics and visualisations off client systems.

The framework has already been successfully deployed on Restructuring Cash Analytics engagements and led to extension of short-term projects into EY hosting analytics and dashboards for clients.

The offering is now expanding to cover all TAS engagements leveraging client’s data.

**The benefits**

* Transforms the data and visualisations you already provide to your client into a dashboard solution
* Refreshes as frequently as required, even daily
* Automated process from end-to-end allows low fees / high margin
* No limit on data volumes
* Scalable process which grows with your project
* Easily replicated across projects

**Client case studies**

The setup was tried and tested on multiple Cash Analytics projects.  In all cases the automation and use of hosted dashboards facilitated extension of engagements

1. **Global Logistics company**

EY were consulting on working capital improvement for a company-wide transformation programme at a global logistics company. As part of the transformation a global reporting solution was set up covering 70 users who received individually tailored weekly reports automatically sent to their email mailbox. The company has seen such value in this that they have retained those weekly dashboards for the last 3 years.

**What was the result?**

EY has earned £700k in analytics fees over the time period for this service alone.

This has provided a foundation for significant further consulting work and provided opportunity to sell in advisory work. We have not only retained the business relationship but also increased this company’s long-term reliance on EY.

1. **Oil and Gas company**

The solution has enabled EY to provide hosted analytics dashboard for an Oil and Gas client at more than £15k monthly hosting fees. The dashboard was refreshed on weekly cadence and provided vital information to more than a hundred individual users. The automation of the refresh was so successful that weekly refreshes continued uninterrupted for the 6 month engagement without any EY or client’s oversight or involvement.

**What was the result?**

EY has earned more than £326k in analytics fees for this service alone. Analytics engagement led to further consulting work for TAS.

**How can I build £20k of passive monthly income?**

Speak to [Anna Kobylinska](mailto:akobylinska@uk.ey.com?subject=Automated%20Cash%20Analytics) about how to apply this within your portfolio.



Our latest winners; **David Ashcroft** and **Oliver Charlesworth** have developed the **SIP9** automation tool. David designed an Excel-based tool for the rapid production of insolvency case time cost analysis. Oliver created the macros running the tool.

**What does SIP9 do?**

SIP9 converts GFIS data to required format for analysing and reporting on Formal Insolvency cases, resulting in several hrs of saving for each case.

**What are the benefits?**

The time cost analysis is required by legislation and has historically taken several hrs to complete in complex cases. SIP9 can drive efficiency savings on every insolvency case by reducing the time required to analyse time costs; improving engagement margin and freeing up team members for other value-added roles.

**Why it’s a winner**

The Firm has c.1,000 live insolvency cases, with statutory time reporting requirements ranging from annually to weekly. The time cost savings that will be generated by the tool will be significant – for example an average of 2 hours per case annually would represent a time cost saving of over £500,000 per year.

It has also improved our client service by enabling us to report quickly and accurately to clients on this key matter.

The tool has already been utilised on a number of cases nationally, including some of the Firm’s most high-profile assignments such as House of Fraser and most recently British Steel. With regards to the latter, our client, the Official Receiver, requires a weekly progress report which includes a time cost analysis in the statutory format, and the tool facilitates us meeting this requirement. This is well received by the client.

David developed the tool and worked with Restructuring QRM to approve its release to the business. He led an online training course to facilitate its national roll-out. SIP9 is compatible with Mercury and feedback from within the business has been very positive.

Congratulations David and Oliver!

**Find out how to win a** [**TAS Innovation Award**](https://sites.ey.com/sites/ukitasinnovation/SitePages/Innovation_Awards.aspx) **of up to £3k per**

**Based on business impact, an estimated $76m has already been realised in FY19 from our Badges earners.**

The Badges program team has commissioned an independent impact study\* on the program. Here’s a summary of its findings:



\*(Sample size = 700+ surveyed across all SLs, regions and ranks on the program. No particular badge is called out but rather on the overall program.)

* **2x** increased value in opportunities identified ($62K vs. $35K) and closed ($42K vs. $23K) by **Badge earners**. (Finance data were mapped for badge earners 6 months before and after badge was awarded.)
* **98%** satisfaction on the program – virtually all of those surveyed believed Badges are a worthwhile investment.
* **85%** believe EY provides them with skills they need to be successful in the future. (GPS survey)
* **85%** of Badge earners have gone on to take action directly related to the badge domain (external benchmark is at 66%.)
* **79%** badge earners have already or expect to see direct impact from the program. (Industry learning program benchmark is at 46%.)

How’s that for a performance hack?!

**Good news alert!**

Bronze learning hours have now been reduced from 20 to 15 hours

Silver learning hours have now been reduced from 40 to 30 hours

[Browse Badges](https://internal.ey.net/sites/EyBadges/Pages/index.html#/home) and start earning yours today.

**UK&I TASx Innovation Station podcast - Episode 4**

[](https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/4f25ca38-42c7-4f83-8b0e-2412263a153b)

I return to the chair with my guest Ken Ingram, OTS Innovation Lead, who shares his steps for success with Analytics, Badges, and still makes time for life as a weekend Rockstar!

**Tune in here for** [**Episode 4**](https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/4f25ca38-42c7-4f83-8b0e-2412263a153b)

**Wait! Did I miss** [**Episode 3**](https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/4f7cb529-bf21-419c-a644-5cd6151dbf1d?channelId=9eaf009a-be6c-433b-9928-4d077b8ae798)**?**

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|  | Digital Direct – Interactive client reports  Digital Direct is a dynamic online platform providing your clients with user-friendly, secure and on-demand access to interactive reports, supporting documents and deep analysis needed to make decisions at deal speed, all in one place. |
| User experience  The Digital Direct platform makes it quick and easy to share smart reports, with easy navigation to all deal documents and seamless integration of interactive analytics dashboards. Your clients can provide feedback directly to EY engagement teams through the two-way commenting feature.  With an enhanced viewing experience both in web and tablet format, EY Digital Direct is an evolution of our existing service delivery enabling our TAS people to focus on delivering insight and value creation to the client.  It helps us represent a more tech-enabled, innovative image, and our competitors do not yet have similar capability.  Digital Direct was launched in UK&I TD in January, and we are now piloting the tool with other SSL’s in TAS.  Want to find out more?   * Read the [use case](https://find.ey.net/discover/sitepages/home.aspx#detailPath=AUNKKWFK5AMY-2-20069) * [Demo videos and go-to-market resources](https://sites.ey.com/sites/DS_TAS/Pages/digital-direct.aspx) * Contact your [Digital Direct Champion](https://find.ey.net/discover/sitepages/home.aspx#detailPath=CSCZT4J6CMC5-5-1854) for access | |

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|  | Get credit for recording DEAN activity  The DEAN activity code is used to give you and your team acknowledgement for using TAS Analytics tools in your everyday work. To get this credit, you need to select DEAN in the Mercury activity box when recording your time for an engagement, proposal or pitch. |
| Smash the FY20 target  In FY19 we used Analytics in 40% of all TAS engagements – we’re targeting an increase to 55% by FY20. No additional charges are applied to engagements from selecting the DEAN code and using the DEAN activity code will have no impact to your billing, so you can help us smash this target!  **Don’t forget to select the Decision Analytics (DEAN) activity code when completing your timesheets in Mercury for all Analytics work.**  Innovation Leaders  Have a question? Get in touch.   * EY Parthenon [Daniel Guttmann](mailto:Daniel.Guttmann@parthenon.ey.com?subject=DEAN%20codes) * CF [Philip Milne](mailto:pmilne1@uk.ey.com?subject=DEAN%20code) * TD [Mark Evans](mailto:mevans@uk.ey.com?subject=DEAN%20codes) * Restructuring [Matthew Evans](mailto:mevans1@uk.ey.com?subject=DEAN%20code) * OTS [Ken Ingram](mailto:KIngram@uk.ey.com?subject=DEAN%20code) * VME [Jon Blackie](mailto:jblackie@uk.ey.com?subject=DEAN%20code) | |

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| UK&I TASx Innovation Station podcast - Episode 2  [cid:image017.jpg@01D59988.3C5AE710](https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/7bf47e84-62d4-4d46-bf41-eefa29bbb6f5)  I caught up with Weiwei Hu, AD TAS Support, to talk TASx rotations, Weiwei’s advice on Tech ecosystems, and how EY can help Tech start-ups.   * [Tune in here](https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/7bf47e84-62d4-4d46-bf41-eefa29bbb6f5) |

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| TAS Digital Champions event  The TASx team met with the Innovation Champion network to discuss​ **our innovation priorities**– what we are investing in and why​, and how to drive adoption in the business.  New technologies are rapidly leading to new business models and new industries, disrupting us and our clients.  The Innovation Champions help their teams to adopt new technology. The benefits may sometimes seem obvious but people will often resist a change to their status quo​. |
| *Jan Chan opens the Event*  It can be overwhelming to try to master everything — analytics, data and new digital tools. With the right focus and the right mindset we can build on our strengths and future proof our business.  The Innovation champions can help by explaining ‘what’s in it for me’ for your teams​. They are experts at:   * Promoting the new tool or technology (what is it, why to use it, when to use it, what benefits it brings)​ * Training new users and supporting them as they adopt new ways of working​ * Gathering feedback and identifying issues with the tool |
| *Nick Metzgen explains the analytics journey*  Get in touch with your [Innovation Champion](mailto:tasx@uk.ey.com?subject=Innovation%20Champions) |

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| *Dominic Varnavides* | Meet Dominic Varnavides, TAS Digital Apprentice  I've been a Digital Apprentice at EY for just over a year now. I studied Business at college and I looked into going to Uni and then getting a job in investment banking, but I found the EY Digital Apprentice scheme as an alternative. Getting a full-time study degree works for some jobs but I thought the scheme was a great way of getting my degree as well as 3-4 years of work experience and some transferable skills. |
| I have study time planned in and at the end of every year I submit a paper demonstrating that I've met the criteria for the Digital Apprentice skillsets.  My first role is with Restructuring. For around 6 months, I worked on a project with a global logistics company working to improve their Working Capital performance. I took part in preparing presentations for weekly client calls, preparing data analysis and had the opportunity to help run a training session for the client along with a Director on the project which was successfully delivered to over 60 billing leads. I struggled with some of my study modules to begin with but got help from team to get through it. We're a small team in Restructuring so we're all close and work well together.  My TAS rotation  As part of the Digital Apprentice scheme I get to do rotations with different teams. There are no set structures for rotations, I'm encouraged to put my hand up and take opportunities. My counselor suggested the TAS innovation team, so I wrote an application to Alan Taylor, TASx Lead, and I started the following week!  I started in TAS Innovation knowing nothing about it, and within 2 weeks I had created workflow applications and published them on the TAS Workflow Gallery. Workflows are data automation and manipulation tools which help you do routine data processing tasks more quickly. For example, I made an automation workflow for the LASER team which has recently been released: MVL doc generator.  The tool is used to generate standardised letters, forms and reports for day 1 of an administration. They are automatically populated with data from Companies House, saving time on research and manual inputting. Previously we were using an Excel tool, which was less customisable and took longer. manually populating the template each time.  It was a challenge trying to push it over the edge in the last few weeks up to launch, with tiny changes here and there, but it's a really tangible way of demonstrating that I've met the criteria for my apprenticeship.  In the TAS Workflow Gallery there are now 10 published apps and 5 are mine. My name is on the front page and I can say I'm proud of what I've achieved.  The EY experience  In October I went to a 2-day Alteryx Inspire conference in London, with some of the Analytics teams from across the business. There were a lot of different companies presenting how they have used analytics to transform their business. One speech that stood out to me was the way Dubai Airport have leveraged Alteryx to save hundreds of working hours every year. The highlight of the conference was when theoretical physicist Dr Michio Kaku gave a presentation about trends affecting business, medicine, finance, and life, based on the latest research in science.  I'm not 100% sure where I'll be working after the Digital Apprenticeship, but I really enjoy innovation and will have worked lots people across EY by then. It's been good to use my new skills and I'm getting more autonomy as I become more experienced.  The rotations help me create connections, open doors and build trust. I've got good relationships with people across the business, who I wouldn't have met otherwise. I'm willing to learn, so I bring different skills back to my team in Restructuring. I discover quicker, better ways of getting things done and I get a lot of interest from senior people because of that. | |