

My Profile

Personal Information

Joshua Marson

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Background Information

My name is Joshua Marson. I come from a mostly Australian background, though I am sure if you dig deep enough you would find my family originates from the UK/ Ireland. I was born on the 29th of January, 1997 in NSW (New South Wales) and have grown up here my whole life and completed year 12 and the HSC here, attending a few different schools along the way. Since finishing year 12 I have tried many different studying and career options however I have been unable to stick to them or find any enjoyment in them, which has led me to this course and hopefully a future within the IT (Information and Technology) space.

Interest in IT

My interest in IT and computers in general started in high school with my first ever IT class. Although we learnt basic and simple things it opened my eyes to a world I had never seen before. I also loved to spend my lunch/ recess time in the computer lab either playing Minecraft with my friends or learning about other subjects in school. My intrigue for IT has only grown since then and I now love to learn the more practical side of things including building and troubleshooting PCs (personal computers) for myself, friends and family while also resolving all technical problems for my family, especially my grandparents and their computer troubles. Although I have no professional experience in IT I do wish to learn and hopefully gain work experience as I work through this course. After doing a lot of research about what course I wanted and how I wanted to study, I decided that an online course with RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) would be the best fit for me and my life right now as well as the future. I understand that this is only an introductory course however I expect to learn all the basics I need to give me the platform to jump into a bachelors and not be out of my depth.

Ideal Job

(Hudson, 2021)

My ideal job is within the IT sector; however, I'd like to work in cyber security. I'll attach a link and screenshot of a role I found that fits what I want to do. However, I understand I would need to complete further study and gain more experience in the field to be able to be considered for this job.

Link to job advertisement:

<https://www.seek.com.au/job/55356490?type=standout#searchRequestToken=a808c869-6503-4be0-bd09-adf81eefe6ae>

Snapshot of job advertisement:

Cyber Security Consultant

↗ Share

Hudson - Technology, Projects & Transformation

Melbourne • CBD & Inner Suburbs

Information & Communication Technology • Security

Up to \$130000.00 p.a. • Full time

Posted 4h ago

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Cyber Security Consultant

Work for a cyber organisation that services a variety of industries and are actively seeking an Offensive Cyber Security Consultant. They're seeking someone who is technically minded with experience in Linux, ISO-27001/Cyber Security Frameworks and Elasticsearch (This is highly desirable). You will need to obtain strong communication skills, with expert knowledge of the cyber environment.

Key Responsibilities:

- Management and maintenance of the SOC infrastructure, including of SIEM, Vulnerability Scanner, CARA.
 - SCN Elastic-based SIEM
 - Alerting/SOAR capability
 - Incident Response for existing and new customers and vulnerability assessment managed services
 - Threat Hunting platform creation and management
 - Threat Prevention coverage across all customer based NGFWs
 - Automated security scanning for MSSP customers

Key Capabilities/Experience:

- Elasticsearch/ELK
- ISO-27001 or any Cybersecurity Framework
- L7 firewall administration, preferably Palo Alto Networks
- Linux working knowledge

Job Description

This job is ideal for me as it is exactly the kind of role I would like; as I'll be working in a team as well as on my own and is a role I could perform remotely. This ad is for an Offensive Cyber Security Consultant, whose role would be to manage and maintain current security infrastructure as well as communicating and performing further security tasks with current clients. The skills and experience required for this role are extensive. The successful applicant would be capable with a plethora of software, such as;

- Elasticsearch/ELK
- Any security framework, however, ISO27001 is preferred
- L7 firewall administration, preferably Palo Alto Networks
- Working with Linux
- Management and configuration of VPNs
- Python and VB.NET experience desirable
- Strong Communication skills

I would need a lot more experience and skills to be successful in this role as I currently have no professional experience or skills using any of those programs. However, I possess amazing communication skills and work ethic which I feel would be crucial to this role.

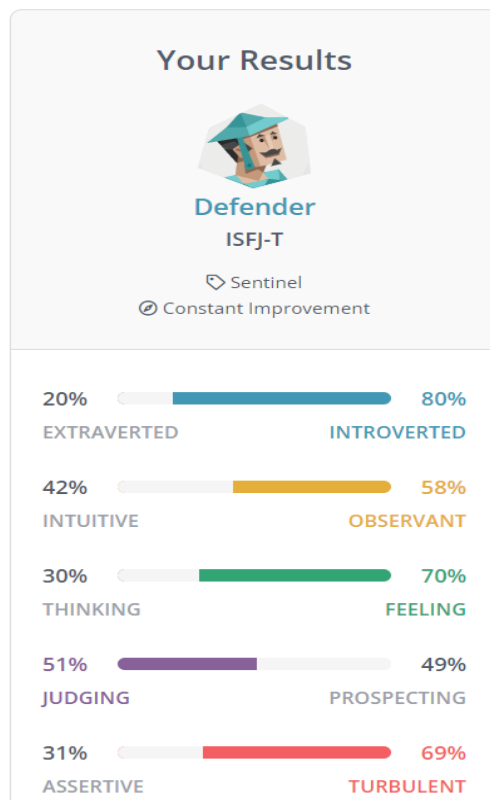
To gain the skills required for this role I will keep learning. I will do this through completing a Bachelors in IT, while also teaching myself to be fluent in all those programs through online resources or other courses. I will also be applying for an entry level job within the sector to gain on the job experience in using software such as those listed above and use that experience and knowledge, to make me a desirable candidate within the IT workspace.

Personal Profile

I have undertaken three different tests that I believe give some insight into who I am and how I will work, however, I do not think my personality or my work style should be judged squarely on the result of these tests.

Myers – Briggs Test

(NERIS Analytics Limited, 2013)



Creativity Test

(Mind Tools, 2011)

Calculate My Total



Total = 48

Score Interpretation

Score	Comment
16-36	You're unsure of your creative talent. Maybe you haven't been given opportunities to be creative, or maybe you're convinced that you're simply not a creative person. Either way, look for opportunities to improve how you do things, even if you don't have any current problems. Use the discussion and resources below to be more creative – you'll be surprised by how creative you can be if you give yourself a chance! (Read below to start.)
37-58	Your creativity is a "work in progress." You've had some successes, so now it's time to let loose and stretch yourself. Share your ideas and perspectives with others, and ask them how they view problems. Adopt a collaborative approach to problem finding, and work actively with others to create and innovate. The tools and resources below will help you get to the next level of creativity. (Read below to start.)
59-80	Creativity is one of your strengths, and innovative and creative minds are highly sought after. So don't hide your ability! Look for ways to share your creativity process with others. Engage colleagues and teammates in creative pursuits, and promote creativity in your team and organization. And remember that you can always be more creative – so use the tools and discussion below to fulfill your creative potential! (Read below to start.)

Learning Style Test

(Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, 2011)



What's Your Learning Style? The Results

Joshua Marson's scores:

- Auditory: 40%
- Visual: 25%
- Tactile: 35%

You are an Auditory learner! Check out the information below, or [view all of the learning styles](#)

Auditory

If you are an auditory learner, you learn by hearing and listening. You understand and remember things you have heard. You store information by the way it sounds, and you have an easier time understanding spoken instructions than written ones. You often learn by reading out loud because you have to hear it or speak it in order to know it.

As an auditory learner, you probably hum or talk to yourself or others if you become bored. People may think you are not paying attention, even though you may be hearing and understanding everything being said.

Here are some things that auditory learners like you can do to learn better:

- Sit where you can hear.
- Have your hearing checked on a regular basis.
- Use flashcards to learn new words; read them out loud.
- Read stories, assignments, or directions out loud.
- Record yourself spelling words, and then listen to the recording.
- Have test questions read to you out loud.
- Study new material by reading it out loud.

Remember that you need to hear things, not just see things, in order to learn well.

EducationPlanner.org is a public service of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA).
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What do these results mean for me

I believe the results from these tests are a good insight into how I learn and work, but also; my personality. I do not think they should be taken as law. These results are helpful to me as I can tell how I will learn which I can apply to my current studies, they also give me an idea of what kind of work environment I would be best suited too.

How would my team behaviour be influenced

My defender result from the Myer and Briggs test leads me to believe I would be best suited to an isolated role within a larger team. However, my creativity result indicates that I might need a colleague with a creative brain to think of and explore innovative ideas for projects, that I could then execute on.

How should I take this into account when forming a team

If I were tasked with building a team for a project, I would use these results to build a team around my weaknesses. I would look for someone with outstanding creativity as I know I lack that talent. I would also look for a person who is an extrovert, someone who can bring the team together and raise that team spirit as I can be introverted sometimes. I would also look for a high-level work ethic within these people.

Project Idea

Overview

My project idea is to design an app that takes the place of Ivote. Ivote is a website that allows you to apply to vote online for the current elections, but only if you have an eligible reason as to why you cannot attend a polling place to cast your vote in person. The app would allow anyone to vote from home via a smartphone or tablet once they have successfully linked the app to the AEC (Australian Electoral Commission).

Motivation

My motivation behind this idea came about during my most recent local elections. Due to needing to be at work all day, I was not able to attend a polling location. I applied online to use Ivote so that I could still cast my vote, however, due to high server traffic, I could not access the website (*Pearson and Lal, 2021*) and they never sent me the code I needed to be able to login and cast my vote. I only just got a letter saying my application was successful 2 days ago, a week later than the polling day itself. I thought that there must be a way to either improve or produce a new method so this does not happen every time there is an election.

Description

The voting app would be designed to allow the user to simply create an account by linking to government services via Mygov. The servers the app uses would be secured via VPN (Virtual Private Network) and only active during polling dates set by the local or federal government. Once the polling period has opened users will open the app and need to confirm identity using either; secret questions they personally create, fingerprint scanner or face ID. These are all readily available technologies as most smartphones and tablets in modern times make use of either a face ID or fingerprint scanner to gain access to the devices. Voting on the app would also open 1 week prior to polling places to ease strain on servers and give more time for users to apply and cast their votes.

The user only needs to link the app to their mygov account upon initial setup of their account. All details must be the same as what is stored within their individual mygov account info otherwise they will not be allowed to vote. However, once voting is open, they will need to confirm their identity using one of the methods listed above to ensure they are the correct person. This ID verification will happen every time voting is open. Once they have verified themselves, they will be provided with a step-by-step guide on how to vote using the app and then be allowed to fill out all forms and officially cast their vote, wherever they might be.

This new voting app would be similar too Ivote in that; you must apply to use it. Users will be prompted to apply once they download and open the app, following a successful application the user will then be able to link Mygov and verify their identification. Users will be

recommended to use a VPN while voting, however the servers the app uses will be encrypted so it is not necessary. Using a VPN is just an added security measure to ensure votes are not tampered with; however, hacking could occur and must be continually monitored by cyber security consultants.

Security would need to be the biggest priority, especially if this were to be pitched to the government and used state or nationwide. The servers will be encrypted and users will be encouraged to use a VPN while logging in and casting their vote. The servers will also be based in Australia to minimise foreign input. No user will be allowed to cast their vote until they have linked the app's account to their Mygov account and confirmed their identity via fingerprint or Face ID for security reasons.

In summary this idea is just a means to encouraging and enabling more people to vote and vote earlier. This will ease strain on servers and people who work at polling locations. The UI (User Interface) will be simple and straightforward, giving users step-by-step guides on how voting on the app works and support lines open using either a chat bot, email, or phone number. Upon voting completion, users will be sent a digital receipt via email as proof that they have successfully voted.

Tools and Tech

To run smoothly, this app will require different software and multiple technologies. These would include the use of smartphones fingerprint and/or Face ID tools, ability to link to mygov (similarly to how Medicare does), VPN, coding language of choice i.e.; Python.

Using this app would also require hardware such as; a smartphone or tablet and stable connection to internet or mobile data.

Skills Needed

To produce this idea, skills such as experience with python and security frameworks. Prior experience with app creation. However; having researched software for this specific application, there is a lot of software pre built for voting already so this could just be a matter of making use of a pre-built voting software and incorporating into the app. I think in a reasonable time period this app could be designed and functional, as there is already a lot of resources available.

Outcome

If this idea were to be completed and successful it would result in a higher number of voters per polling cycle and would ease load on physical polling places. By having a higher number of servers available this app wont crash as often as the current Ivote system that the government has in place and will cause less frustration amongst voters. This project would simplify the lives of many people in NSW and could be expanded to include all of Australia.

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