Interview with Sherwin from Belgium

We will use Brian’s interview, I add this just in case at a later date we require it.

----- 1. Please tell us about your IT work. What exactly do you do?  
  
I'm a application developer. I create and maintain web based applications.  
  
-----  2. Please tell us about the industry you work in.  
  
In this day and age everything is being automated and many companies are  
searching for solutions to automate their business processes, gather data,  
tracking data and run statistics on the fly. So there is a lot of demand for automation  
which bears a lot of opportunities for IT professionals, especially developers.  
  
----- 3. What other kinds of work do you have to do?  
  
Developing applications.  
Maintaining applications.  
Database maintenance.  
Fixing bugs.  
Security updates.  
Automate tasks to work more efficiently.  
Code reviews.  
A bit of consulting.  
  
-----  4. Who are all the different people you interact with in your work? Please tell us about them.  
  
The client itself.  
If they have a project manager, their project manager.  
Sometimes I'm in direct contact with clients from a client.  
With team members depending to collaborate or sometimes to solve issues together (this depends on the type of client, I can also have a client I work directly for without being involved in a team, often small companies or startups).  
  
----- 5. Please tell us about your interactions with other IT professionals.    
  
If there is a team involved I collaborate with the team otherwise I work alone.  
  
----- 6. What about your interactions with clients or investors?  
  
I have a lot of contact with my clients because good communication is key.  
This is all done remotely. If I travel to my home country I probably also visit  
my clients for a face 2 face meeting.  
  
At the moment I invest in another start-up, not directly related to IT but  
automation is key for this start-up also. I will most likely become co-owner and work for this business in the nearby future (which means I reduce my freelancing or eliminate this completely).  
  
----- 7. What aspects of your work do you spend most time on? Please tell us about these.    
  
When working with clients:  
Development and maintenance.  
Fixing bugs/solving issues.

When working on own project (other business):  
Mostly thinking, planning and a bit of development  
  
----- 8. Which aspects of your work do you find most challenging?  
  
Because I work remotely I have to deal with time differences which can consume  
a whole day of time sometimes for a regular amount of hours. It depends on how much  
work (different things to work on) are queued up where I can switch between.  
Sometimes I need to get in touch with a client or team member from that client outside office times (local time).  
  
Unrealistic determination of estimates/eadlines and scope creep.  
  
----- 9. Finally, can you share an example of the work you do that best captures the essence of  
the IT industry?  
  
I mostly work on relatively large projects (applications, not websites) than run on local intranets, so it's a bit difficult to directly show something without a live demonstration.