February report

Graham Lalor

X00122026

After my first two months in my work placement I can confidently say I have choose the right occupation for myself. I have truly enjoyed the time I have spent in placement, being able to really use what I have learned so far to real life problems. The placement has given me the chance to use and learn new frameworks and get hands on with industry tools like a task management tool called Jira.

During my first week I got to meet the team I will be working with and learn about the company I will be working for, Fidelity Investments provided an online course to train us in their security protocols and risk management. Since Fidelity Investments is an industry leader in Finance they take security and risk management very seriously to insure they competitive secrets stay private to Fidelity.

They also try to insure that their brands trustworthiness is always growing and rarely gets tarnished as it is incredibly hard to recover in the finance industry. Because of this Fidelity Investments insures each new employee is extensively trained in these areas. As new employees we also received training of the types of investments and financial support Fidelity provide.

After completing their mandatory training I was shown by my mentor the new application they are working on providing an interactive tour around the building and provide informative videos at specific locations throughout the tour. I was given time to look over the applications code and analyse how the framework they are using to build the app works. I have never seen this framework before and provides developers the opportunity to create an easy cross platform application that is web based. The latest version of the framework uses Angular two to develop this web based application but Fidelity started developing the application before the latest version was released so they are still developing with Angular one. This gave me the opportunity to personally compare angular one and angular two as I have only used angular two in college as part of our Web Development module.

After being placed on this project team and from interacting with the other project teams in my department I have been able to see how agile development is used in industry. I was given the opportunity to ease into interacting in an agile environment by listening in on my first few scrums before truly participating in them. This gave me time to learn how their task management program is used in the conjunction with an agile development system.

As an intern in Fidelity we are given a little more freedom to go and visit other departments to see what kind of projects they are working on. I was invited to see Fidelity investments innovation lab with another intern. This gave us a great opportunity to see what kind of this may be released in the future this is because the lab is looking at least five years ahead. This helps insure that Fidelity stay on top as one of the industry leaders. The lab is looking into home assistants and types of security features that will be needed if these home assistants will be given access to persons finance’s.

While in the lab we were given the chance to use their interactive wall and to test out there new virtual reality financial applications. Being able to interact with the employees in the innovation lab showed me the different types of IT personal as the employees in the innovation lab are more problem solvers as they are looking into the future and are trying to innovate rather than using tools and software to add applications to an existing market. Many of the projects they work on never make it to the market as they are used for market research. For example they are looking at security features that could be added to the Amazon Echo to allow users to securely ask questions about their finances or other private investments.

After seeing all of this in my short time in industry I have learned that this is the exact occupation I will enjoy for the rest of my career but I have been given the opportunity to see the different roles I can go into.