**Introduction**

In this report I will cover many topics that will help with improving my personal employability skills in the hope of securing an industrial placement for the upcoming academic year. My main aim of this report is to develop an understanding of what current employers are looking for in a computer science placement/graduate. While finding out what employers are looking for I can then further develop skills to better myself and the chances of getting a placement and then graduate job.

**Commercial Awareness**

**Researching the job market**

On 13th November I attended a speed dating event hosted by the university where we met just under 30 employers looking for a range of graduate students and students, like myself, looking for a year in industry. While I was there, I got the chance to speak to employers looking for people for completely different roles, such as a full stack developer, to a security analyst to a project manager. I found that most of the people there were looking for software developers proficient in python and java. After talking to these employers, I found that a less technical role is best for me, this could be something like an IT business manager, an IT consultant or even a front-end developer.

**Targeting for a role**

A role that would be suitable for me is a technical consultant. The role of a technical consultant is to act as an advisor to customers looking for a solution to their problem. This is less hands on with the coding side and requires more business skills such as communication skills and team working skills. I would target my CV to this job by prioritising the soft skills in my CV rather than the technical skills. This can also be done in the activities section, so instead of talking about any coding projects I can talk about times I’ve demonstrated good communication skills or leadership skills.

**Understanding & Articulating Skills**

**Example of Employability skills**

I am currently the president of Cardiff University Kayak club, which is a 100% student run club with over 70 members. As president, on a weekly basis I have to communicate to these 70 + members the upcoming activities each week, so I’ve really developed my written and verbal communication skills. Being the president means I need to be taking a leading role in the club and demonstrating strong leadership skills.

**Identifying skills gaps**

After completing the skills matrix, I have found that one gap in my skills is I sometimes lack confidence. I have noticed this when working in group projects. For example, in the past when people were talking about different frameworks for developing a mobile app, which I have zero experience in, I wasn’t confident enough to speak up and provide my input on this topic. One way I can develop this skill is by speaking up and asking questions even if I have little knowledge on a topic.

**Understanding the role of technology in a changing world**

**The article**

**Drones and their role in improving social well-being**

If you were to go back just 5 years, drones were only just becoming consumer friendly with leaders in the industry, such a DJI, releasing their first versions to the public at around £1000. With the advances in technology in just 5 years we have got a point where we have excellent quality cameras built into drones the size of a smartphone and only cost £400. With drones getting smaller and cheaper it also means they're getting bigger and cheaper.

The rapid expansion of the drone industry has led to many companies finding ways to use drones for social well-being. One such company, Droneseed, has done something that I find very exciting. Droneseed has taken normal drones with cameras on them and developed a computer vision technology to scan an open area, often ruined by forest fires, to find the best places to plant seeds. After they have scanned the area, they map out the fastest route to plant the most seeds. After this route is finalised, they send up their custom-made drones which are loaded up with packets of seeds to optimise the growth of the trees for the area. They can plant 40 acres of trees in just one day.

One of the main ethical issues with using drones is they can also be used for destruction as well as growth. Most notably the predator drone has been used by the United States Military since the early 2000s. This is a huge ethical issue because although these drones might be able to kill very dangerous people it can also sometimes do the opposite and injurer and kill innocent civilians.

A huge legal issue with drones is the limitations that national governing bodies put on them. For example, from 19-21st December 2018 most of Gatwick airport was shut down because someone had flown a drone within a 5-mile radius of the airport. This affected around 140,000 people with around 1,000 flights having to be cancelled. Even the Army was called in. This led to two people being arrested but realised without charge.

The social implications of the use of Drones is very complicated. This is because drones can be used for so many things. Throughout this article we've seen a very positive use for drones, helping to plant trees to save the planet from global warming, and two very negative uses for drones, as an easy way to kill people and an easy way to disrupt many people's lives. Although I focused on the negatives in this article there are actually many more positives to improve the social well-being of people. For example, at the moment there are awful bush fires out in Australia which drones are being used to save the risk of humans going into the fires to put them out. There are countless other uses for good, such as; Film making, Parcel Deliveries, 3D imagining, Lighting Concert Shows, Counting Stockpiles, Search and rescue, Weather, Policing and Sport. That’s just to name a few.

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/drones-role-improving-social-well-being-harry-batchelor/?trackingId=jNxVBOJNTgWgxI2J9tOcDQ%3D%3D

**The article reflection**

My LinkedIn article was based on the use of drones for improving social wellbeing. I chose the use of drones to be the centre of my article after seeing one of the companies I mentioned, DroneSeed, on the news. After seeing the great work that this company does it lead me into thinking what other good uses for drones there are, as previously I had only heard about video drones and drones used for war. After doing more research for the article I actually found many more uses for drones that help with social wellbeing and often times more than just one company doing it. For example, Dendra Systems is another tree planting company based in Australia. Looking into the future, tree planting companies have only a limited space in which they can grow, with only just room for improving speed at which they can plant trees. Whereas with other companies there are infinite possibilities for drones improving social wellbeing, it just takes one very creative person to come up with the next big idea.

**Conclusion on-going professional development**