**How Long Have You Been Working in the I.T. Industry?**

I have been in and out of the I.T. industry for the past ten years, with the past nine years being fully involved in development work.

**What Inspired you to get into the I.T. industry?**

I.T. has always been a passion of mine. I have always been into computers and stuff, so I wanted to learn how it all works and then I took a Uni course in I.T. at Swinburne in Melbourne. That was in 2009 until 2013 and then I started working straight after that.

Awesome! And you enjoy it?

I love it. You can’t do development work without enjoying it. If you are really not into it, it can be a tough gig. You need to get into it.

**Have You Had a Wide Array of Jobs Over Your Career?**

So, I didn’t really have to hunt for it, so you could say I’ve been fortunate there. It just happened. I never appeared for a job interview to find a job. How it all happened was I went for an internship through the University with a subsidiary of Toyota.

We had this real-world project at the Uni where you actually had to do a project for them which was kind of like a try-out. So, if they don’t want to use their own resources for a project, they will just give that project to the University and students get to gain exposure to the industry.

The actual project we worked on what to develop the loyalty program and help with the manufacture of their scanners.

Then in 2014 in Australia, the automotive industry collapsed, and all the jobs went away because it was too expensive to manufacture a car in Australia. So, the project we were working on was for a retail company and that’s where Nelson and I met.

**So, is it Easier to Get Positions in the I.T. Industry Once You Have Established a Name for Yourself?**

Yeah, I don’t really have to do job interviews anymore. It’s a lot more like this conversationwhere it’s all about the experience I have and the projects I’ve worked on in the past. I have a start-up now and I run that company, so I’ve developed a different skill set with that as well.

**Do You Get to Travel with Your Work?**

Yeah, so for example when I was implementing a NetSuite for a company that had 100-plus stores Australia wide. So, while we were implementing that, we had developed our own product to support their operations in the business. I got to travel around a lot to train people on our product.

**Do You Have an Idea of Where You Would Like to go Next? Or do you Wish to Stay in the Same Department?**

That’s a big question. I don’t know what the future holds for me, but I’ll give you a bit of background of how I got started and how it’s all going.

So, I started my own business in 2016. So, the implementation of NetSuite and the development related to NetSuite customisation is our main product. We also do development for an e-commerce platform as well. So, when I started this business with a mate it was just the two of us and we had plans to expand. We were hiring people on a contract basis. If we had a bigger project, we’d hire more resources and then get the job done and release them.

Then in 2020 I came back to India for a holiday to see my family. In March, the pandemic hit, and I haven’t left India since because of the whole pandemic situation. I’ve used it as an opportunity though to set up an office here and I’m hiring full-time resources, training them, and working on projects.

So, the plan is to be in the industry and do projects. But jobwise, I’m not too sure if I want to look for a job and work for someone else.

**That Sounds Very Flexible.**

Yeah, I mean the I.T. industry overall is kind of flexible because it’s the only real stable industry. If you think of it, we are the only people who are all still in jobs. We are very fortunate considering the situation here. One a few industries are like that where there’s been an indirect impact, rather than a direct impact. So yeah, we’ve been really fortunate.

**Do You Think There Will Ever be a Stop in the Growth of I.T. Technologies Due to the Pandemic?**

As I mentioned, it has had an indirect impact, but not a direct impact. So it won’t stop the growth of the entire industry.

I’ll give you an example. If we are doing development for the retail industry, or if we are doing development for the construction industry. If these people don’t have work, the first thing they will do is cut off their extra expenses like the ICD department or cut down their development hours.

But the development doesn’t stop. If you think of it from the I.T. industry perspective. Like, Oracle let’s say, they wouldn’t stop their development. Or Apple, they wouldn’t stop their development. You’ll still get updates for iOS. But maybe some of the I.T. support staff might get let off or something. But I don’t think development will ever stop entirely.

**Do You Have Any Support for Upcoming I.T. Students?**

Different people used to tell me different things. Some people would say there are no jobs in the network side of things and that I should switch to software. And then people would say there are no jobs in software and that I should switch to networking. Everyone has a different perspective.

But, if you have a deep passion for the industry, there are jobs everywhere. You just need to be the best as what you do.

So, if you’re on the development side, you really need to have that passion to develop your skills and you need to keep an open mind. You really need to have a constructive and creative mindset to be able to develop something new.

But definitely don’t listen to people when they try to put you down. There are plenty of opportunities out there.

**So Just Follow Your Passions?**

Yeah, I mean definitely. I’ve noticed that if you are doing something that you’re good at. People say there are not many jobs for pilots for example. But if you are good at it then why not? There are always jobs in every industry for good people. And good jobs too, it’s not like you have to compromise on pay or anything. There are always good, high-paying jobs available.

Just keep doing what you’re doing and learn your craft.

**So How Valuable is Education vs. Experience?**

This is a great question.

One of my mates asked me when we finished uni. He said “OK, I have these two opportunities in front of me, like go for a job or to go and do further study and get a masters”.

I recommended that he go for the job to get the experience, regardless of what they’re paying you.

Ask yourself this question: If you run your own company and you have two people in front of you. One has a master’s degree and one has two years’ experience. Who are you going to pick? You’ll obviously take the one with the experience, because experience always matters.

**What Are Your Interactions Like with Other I.T. Professionals?**

Being in the I.T. industry, obviously you will have to work with the team.

You can’t do everything by yourself. Especially if it’s a bigger project. Like if you’re developing an app there are different aspects to it. So, for instance, we developed app using the React Native platform. What that does is it actually creates an app for both iOS and Android at the same time, so you don’t have to develop an app twice.

I didn’t have much time to work on this project, so we hired someone to work on the React Native side of things. Then there’s the other side which is the database side of things. With this project we chose to go with MongoDB which is a cutting-edge database and its real-time. So, when you update something on the mobile side it updates the cloud and then updates all other devices at the same time without you having to do push calls or pull calls.

So, we hired someone for the mobile side and then someone to work with the MongoDB platform. I was working on NetSuite by myself and then we hired a quality analyst as well. I do a lot of interaction with quality analyst because ultimately, we would want to know if what we were thinking in terms of development was actually what was actually the best way forward.

So, I’m working with a lot of people in our team, and then clients as well. Obviously, we’re interacting with the end-users of our app too. I love the interaction with end-users and seeing if the product you’ve developed is actually helping them. I really love how much interaction there is.

**Do You Prefer Working in Smaller Teams or Larger Teams? Which One do you Find to be More Efficient?**

Smaller teams, because you create a tighter bond with each other which helps you work more efficiently. Larger teams are always hard to manage. This is my experience though, but there might be people who enjoy working in large teams and you know that they care about their work. But the smaller teams are capable of looking at the bigger picture during a project, they know what’s happening across an entire project.

In larger projects, you basically care about your task. You’ve been assigned a task and you finish that and that’s all you have to do. You don’t have to worry about where the project is heading. With a smaller team, everyone knows where the project is going and you can talk to anyone about any part of the project.

**Do You Prefer Greater Variety in the Projects You Work on? Or do You Prefer to Focus on a Specific Area?**

As I said, you need to be the best at something. So, I prefer to focus on one area. I have had opportunities in other areas, but I say no to a lot of them if they are unrelated to my field because I want to stick to doing what I do best. It’s good to be the master of one thing than the jack of all trades. So, I have 8 hours in the day, and I don’t want to spend time learning new things because I.T. is so vast. So, if you subdivide it into like different departments, there’s networks, there’s cyber security, software development, quality analytics and then there is departments within those fields. For example, within software development there are many different languages and different platforms.

Initially I had to find out what I enjoy doing and then once I found that I would want to stick to that. There are so many times when I do struggle myself because I try to project manage things and I do have to things that I don’t want to do. Right now, I am good at development so I would rather someone else handle the project management for me and I would stick to my own field.

The advice I would give you is, don’t overkill yourself because when you are really passionate about things, and you really want to do things. You forget about the time. I previously was struggling, like I wasn’t taking breaks on time and I’m sitting at my desk for four hours at a time. I’m working through the night as well. I think you should avoid that totally and I’ve learned that through experience. So, if you kill yourself working it’s not good, because you want to develop things over the next 30-40 years, not just in one day.

There are obviously times when you have to work overtime, but that should be a limited period if there’s something critical coming up, etc.