

Pandemic and Retraining Period

Summary of events

Please find a summary of the events during the pandemic, the effects upon my role, company and wider industry and subsequent retraining period:

1. AVMI my previous employer installed systems within the corporate sector which primarily included boardrooms, meeting rooms, auditoriums and office spaces which were the primary areas completely shut down due to the pandemic.
2. By mid-2020, AVMI was on the verge of collapse and I suspect was sold by its private equity owners, at which point I was made redundant where I received a substantial redundancy package and had significant savings.
3. At the time there was great uncertainty about the future of the industry and whether normal demand would return anytime soon, if at all.
4. By late 2021 when we were once again going back into lockdown with little prospect of the pandemic ending it was decided to retrain.
5. It was decided to retrain within core Java and associated technologies with the ambition of moving into Android and wider enterprise and e-commerce development due to:
 - Ubiquity: Overall prevalence and close connection with the real-world economy of companies and people physically buying, selling, making, providing and consuming goods and services, an aspect of life whose underlying technologies will always be in demand.
 - Architecture: Crestron and AMX share many architectural similarities with Android and modern enterprise and e-commerce systems, these include:

Service-Based:	Crestron and AMX are primarily built using a service-based architecture using internal communication via individual APIs.
Event Driven:	Crestron and AMX software is highly system centric, event driven and multithreaded requiring extensive coordination, propagation and handling of asynchronous events between components triggered by the UI or other external sources.

- Tablet-based: Crestron/AMX and Android are all tablet-based platforms requiring many of the same careful UI considerations as when deploying to a UI with limited real estate.
 - Product: Crestron/AMX and Android are all highly product-orientated where the needs and ergonomics of how a non-technical user will naturally interact with the system remain paramount.
6. Over the next x2 years I completed a comprehensive range of courses, books, exercises, technical questions and substantial projects within core Java to an advanced level in conjunction with many associated technologies and practices including:
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|----------------|--------|-------------------|---------|-------------|
| Java/JavaFX | Spring | Kubernetes/Docker | CI/CD | DevOps |
| Android/Kotlin | SQL | Maven/Gradle | TDD/BDD | Agile/Scrum |
7. This retraining period resulted in a substantial body of work which can be reviewed at the link below:
- <https://github.com/Paul-Surridge/Sample-Works>
8. The above repository contains a number of Java/JavaFX applications, including a Bank Account Manager app which is an advanced dashboard-based chart analysis of personal banking history which I hope will provide a suitable demonstration as to my proficiency within core Java and my ability to design, architect and develop whole solutions.
9. I am now actively applying for any potential roles which may be deemed suitable for an experienced software engineer who has completed substantial retraining within core Java, Kotlin and many associated technologies and now looking to move into Android and wider enterprise/e-commerce development.
10. Overall I am a strong and versatile software engineer with a background in electronic, electrical and software engineering with a 1st class engineering degree. During my time at AVMI I was one of the strongest engineers in the industry and I am very much hoping to do the same within Android development.