

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 deployed systems within the corporate sector which were 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 a Java based role within the wider sphere of modern 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 concepts and structural complexities with many modern enterprise and e-commerce architectures, these include:

Service-Based:	Crestron and AMX are primarily built using a service-based architecture with internal communication via API.
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.

- Product: Crestron/AMX are highly product-orientated where the needs and ergonomics of how a non-technical user will naturally interact with the system remain paramount.

- I subsequently 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:

Java/JavaFX	Spring	Kubernetes/Docker	CI/CD	DevOps
Android/Kotlin	SQL	Maven/Gradle	TDD/BDD	Agile/Scrum

- This retraining period resulted in a substantial body of work which can be reviewed in the repository below:

<https://github.com/Paul-Surridge/Sample-Works>

- I would broadly consider my overall proficiencies as follows however please review 'Software Proficiencies.pdf' in the repository above for a full listing of my proficiencies within the Java language and overall works completed during this period.

Crestron, AMX	Advanced
Java, JavaFX	Advanced
Spring, SQL, Android, Kotlin	Intermediate
Kubernetes, Docker, Maven, Gradle, CI/CD, DevOps, TDD, Git, Agile, Scrum	Basic

- The 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.
- I am now actively applying for any potential Java based roles which may be deemed suitable for an experienced software engineer who has completed substantial retraining within core Java to an advanced level and looking to move into any suitable role which builds upon my proficiency in core Java.