# Action Plan

My Action Plan consists of several SMART goals: those that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound. My apprenticeship is helping me develop as a professional software developer, and so most of my goals general improvements to my life outside of work. In particular I would like to improve my regular exercise and become more independent.

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|  | Issue | Action | How | By When |
| 1. | Algorithm design is a valuable transferrable skill for a software developer. | Practise algorithm design as a hobby. | Complete 6 online HackerRank Algorithm Design challenges. | January 2015 |
| 2. | I do not build life maintenance like housework or cooking into my day. | Practise cooking with Mum, and help cleaning the house. | Host a family dinner. | April 2015 |
| 3. | I do not get regular exercise. | Take up a hobby that helps me get more active. | Join East Bergholt tennis club. | August 2015 |
| 4. | I do not do much creative work apart from my work for BT. | Compose more music. | Write a short Christmas piece for the Hadleigh Orchestra. | December 2015 |
| 5. | I want to become more independent. | Move out of my parents’ house. | Save £20,000 for a deposit on a house | September 2017 |

# Notes

## Goal 1

I am learning the majority of skills that are valuable to a software developer: test driven development, abstraction, functional programming and object-oriented programming. However the team I am with do not often have to write complex algorithms, and I think this will help my long-term goal of contributing to software research. I can prepare for this by completing the challenges on a website called HackerRank, which presents challenges designed to stretch software engineers.

## Goal 2

As mentioned in my personal statement and in my diary, I have proved to myself that I can be independent in the past. This goal will build my confidence in this area, and help me to decide if I want to move out and start renting, or wait until goal 5 is complete and I can take out a mortgage. I have set a date of April 2015 as my brother will be visiting during this time for his birthday, and my goal is to host his birthday dinner.

## Goal 3

My hobbies and my work both involve indoor activities. At work we have introduced standing desks, which help to improve my posture while at work. BT also has a gym at Adastral Park but I have never seen myself fitting in there. My objective is to take up tennis again, a sport I used to play in high school. I have chosen a date towards the end of next summer, as I think taking up an outdoor sport will be easier in warmer weather.

## Goal 4

Looking at my diary entries has made me realise how important being creative is to me. I have found creative outlets in both music and software, and while my job is in software I hope I will be able to continue to write music. My goal is to write a composition for the Hadleigh Orchestra’s Christmas concert. I have given myself over a year so that I have plenty of time to try different ideas out and see what works.

## Goal 5

Having reflected on my experience of moving out to go to University, I want to live independently again. At the moment I live with my parents following my nervous breakdown, but I think I have recovered from this. I would like to move to somewhere nearby to work, and this will mean I am close to my parents as well should I run into unsurmountable difficulties. I am currently invested in the BT Saveshare scheme, and this scheme finishes one year after I finish my apprenticeship. My goal is to have sufficient money for a deposit by this time, which is achievable given my current savings and spending habits.