COSC2196 Introduction to Information Technology

Assessment 1: My Profile

Contents

[About Me 2](#_Toc19184503)

[Interest in IT 2](#_Toc19184504)

[What, when and why? 2](#_Toc19184505)

[Why RMIT? 2](#_Toc19184506)

[Expectations? 3](#_Toc19184507)

[IT Career 3](#_Toc19184508)

[What is the job? 3](#_Toc19184509)

[Profile 3](#_Toc19184510)

[Project 3](#_Toc19184511)

# About Me

Name: Samuel Everson

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I’m 27 years old and live on the northern end of the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia.

I have a partner, 2 daughters, and a cat named Niles (named after the butler in the hit sitcom ‘The Nanny’).

I enjoy spending time with my family and going on adventures otherwise I’m usually tinkering with something around the house, making music or playing videogames.

Education to date I have completed high school with a HSC (Higher School Certificate) and then went on to complete a Diploma of IT at TAFE. Other than that, I’ve not completed any other formal courses.

# Interest in IT

## What, when and why?

My interest in IT began approximately 12 years ago towards the end of my high school years. I’d always been interested in electronic devices but didn’t have the first clue about how they worked.

When I moved from the Central Coast of NSW to Northern NSW I chose ICT and then IPT as high school electives and this is where the interest really began.

A family friend at the time who has worked as an IT industry expert for many years and teaches IT with the NSW Department of Education & Training, introduced me further into the realm of IT.

With this friend, I built my first desktop PC using old parts he had laying around at his place. This was my first taste of exploring computer hardware and the passion only grew from there.

After completing high school I furthered my IT path by completing a Diploma of IT at TAFE. During this time I purchased all new parts and upgraded my PC with a new build.

In more recent years, and with the knowledge built up from these experiences I have further explored programming during my past employment, specifically with the VBA language and this has sparked my interest into a wildfire. I was fascinated with the way programming could automate such tedious and complex tasks to help end users in doing their work more efficiently and confidently.

From there I have explored other concepts including with other languages and am excited to learn more in a more structured environment!

## Why RMIT?

I chose to study at RMIT as I understand RMIT is a great place to study! I was limited in selection as I was studying online and only part time but I’m very happy to have RMIT as my choice.

## Expectations?

I’m hoping to create a better understanding of IT as a whole and prepare myself to begin a career down the IT path. I’m not yet sure which way to go but am currently considering either software engineer or database administration. I’m sure throughout the degree with RMIT I’ll have plenty of guidance and experiences to help me find my way.

I’m looking forward to the structure of university study vs. me studying/learning on my own – I often find I get lost trying to learn more complicated things as I just don’t know where to start.

# IT Career

<https://www.seek.com.au/job/39909427?type=standard&searchrequesttoken=dfc33c96-acd8-4254-acea-b99c1fe13f1e>

I conducted quite a thorough search but wasn’t very convinced by most jobs I found. I put this mostly to my lack of understanding and experience, or simply, I don’t really know what I’m looking for.

The <above/below> link is a job advertisement that I enjoyed reading and would happily apply for (providing I had the necessary skills).

Should the advertisement no-longer be available, please click here [insert hyperlink to image of the advertisement] to view an image of the advertisement.

## What is the job?

The position requires a C++ developer who loves problem solving. The employer is seeking someone who has the mindset of the whole system, not just the app or section they are working on.

The ad indicates to me the job will require the ability to work in teams and independently, along with working with others outside of a team environment (such as stakeholders etc.). Experience would help (including experience with C++) but you don’t require expertise in the field which shows me there are entry level positions available.

I currently do not have any experience with C++ but do have very little experience with Java and C#. I have no formal qualifications with software engineering. I only have experience in other simpler languages such as VBA and web based programming such as HTML/CSS.

I plan to learn key skills such as working in a team within the IT industry, further my project management skills and of course learn programming concepts and languages via my studies at RMIT.

# Profile

Via the below link I have undertaken a MBTI test.

<http://www.humanmetrics.com/personality?fbclid=IwAR08x7rMSca1ZGxXh5GVLLDnqqyi4ani8FfyibeiBAuf-CHAPKhJYnm6NtM>

My result is **INTJ**

**Introvert(38%) iNtuitive(9%) Thinking(16%) Judging(22%)**

## What does this result say about me?\*

* I am an Ideas person willing to ‘negotiate’ on things rather than accept them for what they are.
* I’m a problem solver.
* I have a firm grasp on my abilities and can advise very quickly if I can assist in finding a solution or not to a problem.
* I strive to make all things I do ‘perfect’.
* I respect those that pill their weight and don’t respect those that don’t.
* I have a high attention to detail.

\*Answers derived from <http://www.humanmetrics.com/personality/intj>

## The Focus Quiz

I’ve taken a quiz on my focus at <https://thesweetsetup.com/quiz/>

My result is I need clarity in what I’m doing now and setting clear goals for all aspects of my life.

## What does this mean about me?

I need to set clearer goals for both short and long term and stick to them. I need to set my focus on what is important rather than simply ‘keeping busy’. By doing so I’ll have a much more productive lifestyle.

## Learning types test

Based on a learning styles test taken at <http://www.educationplanner.org/students/self-assessments/learning-styles-quiz.shtml>

My result is:  
Auditory: 40%

Visual: 35%

Tactile: 25%

## What does this mean about me?

I learn better by hearing (though I feel with some things I learn better by doing).

This means for me things like video lectures, music and speakers are optimal learning mechanisms for me.

## What does this all mean for me and teamwork?

I think I’d make an excellent leader in a team however I tend not to strive for such positions as I prefer to have my tasks set and complete them accurately without worrying about what everyone else is doing.

I’m easy to work with and strive for the best outcome for myself and the team. I’m less likely to engage with team members that are not pulling their weight.

I engage well with discussions which would include project planning and working out task assignment.

When forming a team it would be ideal to find likeminded people as similar personality traits would work well together sharing the same goals and dedication.

# Project

“Baby Brain”

I’m sure any parent new or old can relate to the phenomenon of ‘baby brain’. If you are not familiar, it’s forgetfulness, in my opinion caused by having a new baby and due to the lack of sleep and increases in stress. My project idea is for an app to be developed which will help in remembering what task you had set out to do but forgotten.

As a relatively new parent myself, I have experienced the phenomenon firsthand and thought ‘there’s got to be a better way!’. After doing a little digging I discovered there is scientific research into baby brain.

Studies have shown that baby brain is evident in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy (between 28 and 40 weeks) and ongoing studies continue to investigate the effects of baby brain after the baby is born. Experiencing it firsthand I’m confident the finding will be much the same as the 3rd trimester findings.

Scott, S., Willis, O. and Armitage, R. (2018). *'Baby brain' is a real, measurable phenomenon, scientists say*. [online] ABC News. Available at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-01-15/baby-brain-exists-australian-study-finds/9324664>.

There are 4 key sections of my project;

1. Calendar
2. Alarms/reminders
3. Task list
4. Voice to text

Firstly, the calendar feature will allow users to set reminders for things like appointments. This will be ideally integrable with existing calendars such as google, apple and Microsoft products. It can also be used to display milestones or upcoming key dates during the pregnancy and after birth.

The Alarms/reminders will be a useful tool for both notifying of key events from the calendar along with general day to day tasks like doing washing or buying groceries. The alarms/reminders can be set to specific days in the calendar or even just a specific event/s on a particular day. It will also be able to be independently used outside of the calendar section. This allows freedom to the user to set one off or re-occurring alarms/reminders to tasks that aren’t required to be set in their calendar. With use of notifications, generic reminders can be displayed (based on user settings) such as ‘Did you hang your car keys on the hook? Or did you put them in the fridge again?’.

The Task list will be a useful day to day tool where daily goals or tasks can be set – ideally using 15-minute intervals between tasks as a minimum. This could be used for things like ‘vacuum the house’ and ‘pick up kids from school’ or setting goals like ‘don’t forget where you parked the car Today’.

The voice to text will of course be useable across the entire app but the key focus behind implementing this technology allows for the ease of data input by the user. Rather than having to stop what you’re doing and write all the information down for your reminder or task or calendar input, you can simply say what you want and it will convert it to text for you to save into the app. This can be particularly helpful if the app integrates with AI technologies like Siri, Cortana and whatever amazons is as this would make it a breeze to update things even via hands free whilst you drive.

Ideally with the users permission, the app can listen at all times and keep notes on tasks you are speaking about that way if you forget you can ask the app what you were doing and it can tell you based on ‘x’ minutes ago you said you were going to do ‘y’.

The required software/hardware.

The app will likely be developed in Java or Python. For this app to function as currently projected the following software would be required:

* A development IDE such as Eclipse (<https://www.eclipse.org/eclipseide/>)
* Voice/speech to text API – such as Google Cloud speech-to-text (<https://cloud.google.com/speech-to-text/docs/>)
* Calendar API such as Google calendar API (<https://developers.google.com/calendar/>)

The required hardware is the user’s device (phone or tablet) and potentially an app server to allow push notifications should the app be put to sleep on the users device (which would require users to register for a user account).

To achieve this project an understanding of Java or Python is required. Knowledge of Android, Apple and Microsoft mobile operating systems is required. An understanding of ethics is a must including what data is captured, how it is captured and what user permissions/input are required to do so.

In order to ascertain these requirements, some study and internet searching/referencing would be required but overall it is a very achievable endeavour.

If the project is successful, parents to be and new parents alike will have another tool at their disposal helping make life that little bit easier and reducing the stress of remembering so many little things on top of one of the most significant life events anyone can experience.

With use of the app, parents (to be) can be reminded in real time or at set intervals on what tasks they were setting out to do, no matter how mundane they are. This will positively impact users lives by helping reduce stress, frustration and increasing productivity. Also, significantly less car keys will end up in the fridge.