*Ahmet Akgun, Brandin Mcpherson,*

*Hugo Hughes, Taylen Anderson,*

*Tetsu Watanabe and Timothy Prast*

**Assessment 2**

**My profile**

**Produced by**

2021

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# Team Profile

## OUR Team name

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## Personal information

**A person taking a selfie with a cat

Description automatically generated*Ahmet Akgun*****Student No: S3865010**

Originally from Istanbul Turkey, Ahmet’s passion for IT started in 1992, when his uncle assembled their first personal computer. Their first computer had MSDOS 4.0 installed and provided the young Ahmet with various experiences such as customising a data storage device and entering lines of code in the command bar. It was this first interaction with a computer that fostered his interest in IT.

After graduating from RMIT university, he intends to continue his study at the postgraduate level in hopes to become an instructor at an education institution one day. Ahmet’s hobbies include learning about astronomy and astrophysics, playing chess and editing music using a program called CoolEdit. He currently lives in Melbourne Australia.

***Brandon McPherson*****Student No: S3921902**

Brandon is a person with a wide range of interests. In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games, watching soccer games, spending time with friends and family, and travelling. He is also an enthusiastic reader, his favourite book for this year is titled *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by *Yuval Noah Harari*. In his childhood, he used to play a game called *Sonic the hedgehog.* The experience resulted in developing his passion for video games and technology.

At the time of this writing, he has already been working in the IT industry as an information system support analyst for 7 years. Despite his solid background in networking and information systems, he found computer programming interesting and is considering a career change as a full stack software developer in the future. He lives in Brisbane with his cat named Indy.

**A picture containing person, wall, clothing, indoor

Description automatically generated*Hugo Hughes***  
**Student No: S3923309**

Hugo has a culturally diversified family background with his parents and grandparents who originated from various countries all over the world. He is a keen learner of different languages and loves to travel the world to experience different cultures. In his childhood, information technology was not something he was familiar with nor interested in. However, it all changed when he landed a job at an IT service desk.

With this challenging role, he gradually developed his passion in IT. The role also allowed him an opportunity to brush up on the basic skills that are required to secure his ideal job in the future. His ideal role is to work for the Royal Australian Navy as a Cyber Security Technician. The position interests him because it requires him to be multifaceted and be familiar with various disciplines.

**A person wearing glasses

Description automatically generated with medium confidence*Taylen Robert Anderson*****Student No: S3925287**

Born in Idaho USA, Taylen grew up in Mornington Peninsula, the southeast of Melbourne. Taylen started nurturing his interest in IT when his father was building websites, it was here that he began playing around with Macromedia flash. Due to Taylen's proficiency with building websites, his IT teacher offered him to build a website for the teacher's dad, the website was built using ActionScript 2.0 which is now deprecated. Since then, he taught himself various computer skills and successfully implemented a server which is running his smart home system for his family.

Being a qualified mechanic, he has a strong understanding of electronics. Also, as an astute self-learner, He acquired a basic understanding in programming languages such as C and C++. In the future, he sees himself becoming a firmware engineer which allows him to be involved with both hardware and software development. He currently lives in West Gippsland with his wife and child.

***Tetsu Watanabe***  
**Student No: S3923443**

Born and raised in Japan, Tetsu came to Australia over 20 years ago. He worked at several accounting practices in Brisbane before starting his consulting firm targeting Japanese businesses. The company has grown after 8 years of operation, expanding his client offices in Brisbane, Japan, and Vietnam.

He has witnessed the substantial evolution of IT in the accounting industry. He believes that combining IT and Accounting skills will take him and his company to the next level. His hobby is surfing, which is the reason he moved to Tweed Heads 3 years ago with his family.

***Tim Prast*  
Student No: S3923309**

Tim has a successful business background operating his own bar in Subiaco for the past 5 years. His business is technically advanced and uses the latest technologies to achieve efficient operation. His interest in IT came naturally by having a childhood surrounded by technology and can easily relate himself to IT. Throughout his life, he has enjoyed experiencing the technological advancement.

Gaming has also significantly contributed to developing his interest in the field of IT, his passion for gaming led him to build his own gaming PC. With his strong commercial experience, he hopes to transition his studies over to Computer Science and pursue a career as a business analyst specialising in IT.

## Team Profile

The test outcomes for our members are tabled and summarised below.

The followings are snapshots of who we are as a team.

* We are more introverted than extraverted.
* We are more intuitive than observant.
* We are more logical than emotional thinkers.
* We are equally decisive and flexible.
* We are more self-assured and even-tempered than self-conscious and sensitive.
* We tend to learn by doing & seeing rather than listening.

Information obtained from test results is helpful to facilitate the group’s collaboration. For example, our test results demonstrate our introverted nature. It took two online meetings before we determine our roles and the leadership to make visible progress with the assessment. This may be an example of the introverted nature of the team working against us. If we shared this information before the meeting, we may have acted differently.

A good aspect of our team might be that we think logically, this means that we know the consequences if we do not collaborate and execute our plan properly. Therefore, after the first two meetings, we quickly realised that it was in our best interest for the team to work together and complete the tasks.

“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”

― **Phil Jackson**

The test results also helped us to decide how to deal with each member. Everyone has their own strength and weaknesses. Knowing them would positively influence the way we interact with each other. We understand that acknowledging the individual differences is a good starting point to collaborate and proceed with our team project.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Team Member | Test 1 - Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) test | | test 2 - Online learning style test | test 3 - Further online test | |
| *Ahmet*  *Akgun* | **Mediator**  Introverted 58%  Intuitive 70% | Feeling 52%  Prospecting 51%  Assertive 83% | **ONLINE LEARNING STYLE TEST** | **CREATIVITY TEST** | |
| Visual 67%  Kinaesthetic 59%  Auditory 33% | 69.99 (Typical score is 62.96) | |
| *Brandon*  *McPherson* | **Architect**  Introverted 84%  Intuitive 73% | Thinking 52%  Judging 69%  Assertive 54% | **LEADERSHIP STYLE TEST** | **BIG FIVE PERSONALITY TEST** | |
| Contrarian leaders – mostly independent and question normality. | Extroversion 13  Emotional stability39  Agreeableness 21 | Conscientiousness 67  Intellect/Imagination 65 |
| *Hugo*  *Hughes* | **Debater**  Extraverted 85%  Intuitive 93% | Thinking 59%  Prospecting 67%  Assertive 51% | **MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE TEST** | **EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE TEST** | |
| His top three intelligence and learning styles are kinaesthetic, Musical, and linguistic. | EQ scoring of 19 out of 20 | |
| *Taylen*  *Anderson* | **Virtuoso**  Introverted 59%  Observant 52% | Thinking 68%  Prospecting 74%  Turbulent 72% | **ONLINE LEARNING STYLE TEST** | **BIG FIVE PERSONALITY TEST** | |
| Kinaesthetic 64  Visual 64  Auditory 41 | Extroversion 70  Emotional stability 7  Agreeableness 17 | Conscientiousness 2  Intellect/Imagination 34 |
| *Tetsu*  *Watanabe* | **Logistician**  Introverted 73%  Observant 51% | Thinking 59%  Judging 67%  Turbulent 56% | **ONLINE LEARNING STYLE TEST** | **BIG FIVE PERSONALITY TEST** | |
| Visual 59  Auditory 46  Kinaesthetic 46 | Extraversion 35%  Openness 56%  Agreeableness 54% | Conscientiousness 62.5%  Neuroticism 42% |
| *Tim*  *Prast* | **Assertive Advocate**  Introverted 59%  Intuitive 70% | Feeling 59%  Judging 63%  Assertive 54% | **PERSONAL LEARNING PROFILE** | **SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT TEST** | |
| His focus areas are Personal Value, Using Technology while his strengths are Accessing Support and Persistence | Answered 11 out of 16 questions correctly. | |

# Ideal Jobs

Overview

W

e have found both similarities and differences for our ideal jobs. The summary of the findings is tabled and outlined below.

Figure 1 –Photo of people doing handshakes

Source: Fauxels

Three of our team members consider roles in the public sector for their ideal jobs. Of those who chose a private sector, two (Brandon and Tetsu) picked the full stack developer role whilst the remaining member (Taylen) is determined to become a firmware engineer.

We found that each job required both technical and soft skills. However, the emphasis on soft skills tends to be stronger for those in the public sector. We believe that there are two reasons for this. The first is because roles within the private sector are highly specialised, so the job advertisements aim to attract only those who have specific technical expertise. The second is because the public sector is likely to have a more hierarchical organisational structure and is vital for employees to understand and follow a chain of command which requires them to have good people skill.

Similarities

Among our ideal jobs, the most common technical requirement is programming skills. All three roles in the private sector require fluency in at least one or two programming languages. The knowledge in SQL databases and version control systems such as GIT is also highly regarded in the private sector.

Among the many soft skills, communication is by far the most preferable skill in the public sector. The ability to manage people is another important skill that is sought after in this sector. The skill includes the management of stakeholders, tasks, and projects.

Roles in the private sector tend to emphasise an ability to adapt and learn new technologies rather than people skills. This may indicate the employers’ intention to hire a highly specialised technician.

Differences

We found that each role has its unique aspect. For example, Taylen’s role as a firmware engineer requires him to understand basic electronics and mechatronics which are not a requirement for the other roles mentioned. Brandon and Tetsu chose the same job title as full stack developer. However, there is a prominent difference in required skill sets. Brandon’s role has a stronger emphasis on programming skills. On the other hand, Tetsu’s role leans toward a thorough understanding of the web application development process rather than focus on programming.

Also, every job has an element of unique specialisation. For example, in the case of Ahmet, it is the teaching. For Hugo, it is the cyber security. For Tim, it is the data management/analysis.

Conclusion

We found that there are some skills and knowledge that commonly attract our potential employers. These are technical expertise in programming, SQL database, and version control system as well as soft skills such as communication and management skills.

We also found that there were differences in each job. These differences arise as the result of different specialisation that we choose to pursue.

It is concluded that although it is important to develop commonly preferred skills specified by employers, having a specific specialisation would significantly influence our future job prospects and career path.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Team Member | Job Title | occupation | Requirement | | Similarity | Difference |
| **Technical** | **Soft** |
| *Ahmet*  *Akgun* | Instructor of Information Technology | Education tutor | * Online course development * Learning Management Software | * Master’s degree * Communication * Teaching | * Communication | * Emphasis on formal education and teaching skill |
| *Brandon*  *McPherson* | Full Stack Developer | Software developer | * Cloud technologies * SQL Database * Various programming * Version control | * Ability to adopt new technologies * Adaptability with different technologies | * SQL Database * Programming * Version control * Ability to adopt new technologies | * Very specialised in programming |
| *Hugo*  *Hughes* | Cyber Security Technical Officer | Cyber security specialist | * Computer Science/Cyber Security qualification/experience | * Management * Analytical * Communication * Stakeholder management | * Management * Communication | * Emphasis on soft skills * Focus on Cyber security |
| *Taylen*  *Anderson* | Firmware Engineer | Computer engineer | * C, C++, and a higher -level language * Tertiary education * Electronics * Version control | * Ability to adopt new technologies * Attention to detail | * Programming * Version control * Attention to details * Ability to adopt new technologies | * Emphasis on engineering (Software, Mechatronic and Electronics) * IoT |
| *Tetsu*  *Watanabe* | Full-Stack Software Developer | Software  developer | * Cloud technologies * SQL Database * PHP * Version control | * Ability to work solo and in a team | * Programming * Version control * SQL Database | * Involvement in the full web application development cycle |
| *Tim*  *Prast* | Business Analyst | Analyst | * Business analysis experience * SQL Databases * Understanding of various IT areas * Data modelling & Data management | * Communication * stakeholder management * Ability to see the big picture * Attention to details | * Management * Communication * Attention to detail * SQL Database | * Balanced between technical and soft skills * Emphasis on data management |

# Tools

## GitHub

GitHub Pages URL

<https://github.com/taylenAnderson/stockIT.git>

GitHub Public Repository URL

<https://taylenanderson.github.io/stockIT/>

Comments on the team’s Git repository

T

he full audit trial on the team’s commits is found in the following link.

<https://github.com/taylenAnderson/stockIT/commits/main?before=e5059bad1b25cd96e1caf00ab1eadb8adc2d4ae1+105&branch=main>

According to the audit trail, Taylen, our assigned manager for the website development, made the first commit. No other member pushed any commit until 7th October 2021. Prior to that, we used Microsoft Teams to share our documents. GitHub was first introduced to the team when one member made [Youtube](https://youtu.be/51yngM1Pfik" \t "_blank) video to facilitate other members to set up the group repository in their local drives. Initially, some members were hesitant to use GitHub due to the lack of experience and knowledge. We had a stereotype of GitHub as mainly being used for a programming collaboration and did not think of it as a tool to share other files such as word documents. We soon realised that it is a powerful tool that makes our file sharing and tracking much more effortless. Closer to the end of assignment completion, we had one occasion where there was a misunderstanding within the team to identify an incorrect file as the final version. This incidence occurs due to inconsistency in document naming, file structure, and miscommunication with the project management. We took the incident as a valuable lesson that helped us comprehend how Git works and should be used for the next group assignment. We believe that the audit trail and other information attainable from the repository demonstrate our collaborative effort and improvement in utilising the tool more frequently and effectively. We have included snapshots of some usage data obtainable from our repository (as of 15th of October 2021) in [Appendix A](#_APPENDIX_A) for your information.

## Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams Invite Link

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3a9MyjIii3NQaWmcpGtjxWffQmZgmL-1rA13fQ8CUmn6g1%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=24f3f6bd-b9be-4a72-8a4f-c982e853354a&tenantId=d1323671-cdbe-4417-b4d4-bdb24b51316b>

Please note that we have used the chats section for most of the group's conversation and collaboration. If you require access to our chats history, please contact our team leader, Tetsu Watanabe, via email: [**s3923443@student.rmit.edu.au**](mailto:s3923443@student.rmit.edu.au).

**Microsoft Teams collaboration**

Please note that we have held the total of 7 official team meetings during the preparation of this report, not including an unofficial meeting being planned 17th of October 2021.

For Microsoft Teams meeting agenda & actions, please refer to the PDF report titled Group # 12 - MS.PDF that is submitted in conjunction with this report.

We have communicated daily using chats section of Microsoft Teams to supplement our official meetings held twice a week. These frequent communications within the group assisted each member to be accountable with their tasks and be informed with the progress of the assignment.

## Other tools used

EXCEL SPREADSHEETS

We have used Microsoft Excel spreadsheets to manage tasks assigned to each member. The snapshot of Excel spreadsheets adopted by the team are attached in [Appendix B](#_Appendix_B). These spreadsheets were vital tools for the group to share and monitor the project progress.

# Industry Data

Industry Snapshot

A

ustralia is rapidly becoming an increasingly digitalised society. Recent health and socio-economic upheavals, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, has accelerated our nation’s push to develop strong digital sovereignty and capability. This shift can be captured through industry statistics, where the Australian Computer Society (ACS) reports in the ‘*ACS’ Demand & Impacts on Tech & Digital Skills White Paper 2021,’ ‘*that the ICT & Technology Workforce grew by 33,400 to 805,525 which represents an annual increase of 4.3 per cent, (contrary to) other professional industries which only saw growth of 1.3 per cent and the overall unemployment rate which increased by 1.7 per cent[[1]](#endnote-1) (Australian Computer Society, 2021). Further to this, the *Skills Priority List* identifies numerous ICT-related professions that are in national shortages and predicts continued moderate to strong demand for these skillsets in the future[[2]](#endnote-2) (National Skills Commission, 2021).

Figure 2 –Close-up Photo of Survey Spreadsheet

Source: Lukas

Industry statistics are consistent with Government initiatives and plans that look to establish Australia and the Australian Government as a leading digitally run society. Released in 2018 by the Digital Transformation Agency, the *Digital Transformation Strategy* recognises that ‘Australia’s ongoing success depends on our ability to harness these technological advances‘[[3]](#endnote-3)and that ‘the pace of change continues to blur the boundaries of the physical and digital worlds.’[[4]](#endnote-4) Programs such as CSIRO’s (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) Data 61, the Australian Defence Force Cyber Gap program and the Digital Cadetship program all seek to bridge digital skill and capability gaps in Australia’s workforce.

What does this mean for our team?

The Department of Industry in their report *Australia’s Tech Future* highlights the innate value of embracing digital technologies from a business perspective. “Small and Medium businesses with higher levels of digital engagement are significantly more likely to be growing revenue, creating jobs, exporting and innovating new products or services”[[5]](#endnote-5) (Department of Industry, 2018). There is a strong need for educators, developers and analysts, enabling businesses and Government to grow and deliver services that are effective, efficient and accessible.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with low confidenceBelow compares our team’s ideal jobs against Industry Data developed by Burning Glass in 2018, the Australian Computer Society in 2021 and the National Skills Commission *Skills Priority List* released in 2021.



**Sources: Labour Insight Jobs (Burning Glass Technologies 2018)[[6]](#endnote-6), National Skills Priority List (National Skills Commission 2021)[[7]](#endnote-7) Demands & Impacts on Tech & Digital Skills White Paper (Australian Computer Society 2021)[[8]](#endnote-8)**

Observations on Data Findings

The Business Analyst role does not rank in the Burning Glass Data (2018) but is Ranked First in ASC Data (2021). Causal factors for exclusion in the Burning Glass data can include:

* + - Change in Industry Demands
    - Development of Industry in recognising the need for Business Analysts
    - Expansion of traditional IT Roles, to now include business enablers such as Business Analysts to facilitate outcomes

There has been significant growth in the IT Industry over the past couple of years and consequently roles have been created and redefined to meet the needs of Industry. There has been a noticeable trend of Small and Medium Businesses adopting digital practices to assist in developing their enterprises and delivering their services. Business Analysts can be utilised to offer bespoke solutions to businesses and can be used to bridge a knowledge gap between non-digital using business owners and the digital world.

Most roles identified by the team have strong business demand or future strong business demand according to the National Skills Priority List. Demand for these skills can be attributed to the following:

* + - Industry Growth
    - Dependency on Digital Services (increased digitalisation outside of ICT realm)
      * Supply of workers outweighs current demand
    - National Need

The IT Industry has been one of the fastest growing Industry. This has been accelerated by increased access to technology, global events such as COVID-19 and the growing integration of digital capabilities into traditionally non-digitalised space. The boom in the use of IT services has occurred at a rate far greater than the industry’s ability to recruit and train employees to necessary standard. This has created a huge workforce capability gap, requiring Government and Industry to develop strong incentives to attract people to study and work in IT.

The Security Analyst & Cyber roles were absent from Burning Glass Data (2018) yet ranked Seventh in the ASC Data (2021) and has been acknowledged as a skillset that is currently in National Shortage with a Strong Future Demand. Causal Factors for exclusion in the Burning Glass Data can include:

* + - Cyber Security and awareness have been the peripheral, not the main focus on organisations and Industry until recently
      * The Australian Government announced 2020 Cyber Security Strategy, replacing the 2016, noting the security environment is degrading at a rate greater than anticipated in 2016, with a reliance and integration of digital services increasing at a rate unprecedented in 2016.
      * The Government’s 2016 Cyber Security Strategy invested $230 million into Cyber Security functions; the Government’s 2020 Cyber Security Strategy invested an additional $1.35 billion into Cyber Security functions. (Department of Home Affairs, 2020)[[9]](#endnote-9)
        + The significant increase in investment is indicative of the massive shift in the attitude towards cyber security.
    - The function of cyber security could have been an assumed responsibility in some of roles in the Burning Glass Data.
      * Development of hardware and software is heavily intertwined with elements of cyber security.
      * Elements of cyber security is in inherent in maintenance of a system

Further to this, we have extracted some of the core skills in each role we have chosen to create an aggregated group skillset and compared that to the Burning Glass data. It was harder to find an alternative data source that was consistent with the metrics used in the Burning Glass data to provide greater depth in the analysis of which skills are relevant in the ICT roles. This is partly due to the evolution and refinement of language used to describe and used by Industry.

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A screenshot of a computer

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**Source: Labour Insight Jobs (Burning Glass Technologies 2018)[[10]](#endnote-10)**

Planning, communication skills and problem solving are the most sought-after skills according to the Burning Glass data. This comes as no surprise as these skills are quintessential to every IT professional regardless of their role. Without the ability to communicate what a problem is, what needs to be done, who needs to be engaged to resolve it and who it may affect, it is hard to be effective within the IT Industry. Further to this, an IT professional often deals with numerous systems and processes, which often are not designed to operate to work with other systems. Having the necessary skills to be able to recognise and methodically solve problems are crucial in an industry that many people are rely on to perform their respective job. IT professionals are often faced with a suite of complex and intricate problems. Without a proper plan they are likely to encounter issues effectively implementing solutions. This could incur great financial and reputational costs if projects and solutions are not delivered promptly, especially in areas where the industry is heavily reliant on continual and stable access to IT.

Below outlines the top skillsets that fell outside of our group’s aggregated skillset:

Table

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There are a few causal factors that can provide key insights as to why these skills fell outside of our aggregated skillset:

Breadth of the professions selected by individuals

In our group of six, five different professions were chosen across the IT industry. The professions selected comprised of a range of required technical abilities and strengths. As result our aggregated skillset was quite balanced across the entirety of the industry, rather than being focused on one specific area.

Communication, whilst an incredibly important skill and relevant in the industry, is not the key reason someone would be hiring an IT professional in most circumstances

The key differentiator in IT professions stem from the required level of technical proficiency needed to be effective in a role. It is less so defined by the communicative ability of the IT professional. Generally speaking, if you required a communications specialist, you will not be hiring an IT professional, unless you require a telecommunications specialist to fix your VoIP (Voice over IP). Jokes aside, the key skills required by the IT industry tend to have a focus on hard skill sets such as programming ability.

Whilst there definitely is a need for strong communicators in the IT Industry, there is also an equally strong, if not stronger need for technical specialists. For example, communication is a needed skill in the full stack developer role as you work with both front & back-end systems, meaning that you would most likely be dealing with a range of stakeholders. However, if you do not possess the technical skills necessary to perform a function, no amount of communication skills can bridge that capability gap

Organisation Skills & Writing are interchangeable with other skills

Whilst organisational skills fell out of our skillset, planning did not. Similarly, writing fell out of skillset, but communication skills featured more in the data that informed our aggregated skillset. These skills are heavily interchangeable and conceptually linked. To be an effective communicator, you need a balance of written and oral skills; to be an effective planner, you required a degree of organisational skills. The absence of these skills is not a point of concern, but it is useful to understand what might be of interest to employers that is not in our preliminary focus.

Breadth of technical skills in the industry

Our aggregated skillset lists three out of range of key technical skills in the industry. Consequently, it was a given that some major IT skills were going to fall out of our aggregated skillset such as SQL and JavaScript. Once again this is not a point of concern, but it is useful to have an awareness of what might be of interest to employers.

Has our opinion of our ideal jobs changed?

In short, no. If anything, the data has solidified everyone’s decision on their dream job. There are three causal reasons for this.

1. The IT Industry is growing at a much faster rate than the IT workforce is.

Throughout this report on industry data, it has become abundantly clear that there is a current shortage of skilled IT workers. As the industry grows, the demand for certain technical skillsets will only increase further. As Ahmet said when asked if his dream job had changed, “organisations are becoming more computerised and businesses are becoming more digitalised” therefore “more education and training must be conducted to meet these requirements.” For Hugo, the fact that the security analyst type roles did not feature in the Burning Glass data, but featured heavily in more current statistics he said, “the environment has clearly evolved a lot over the past few years” what this mean is “as everything becomes more digital, cyber-attacks are going to become more common, as a result, security analysts will become more relevant.”

1. Whilst statistics can help us make informed decisions, passion is what really drives us.

When Taylen was asked about whether his ideal job had changed he led with “I am very passionate about how hardware and software communicate and interface with each other.” His primary motivation is his curiosity and interest in the field. For Tetsu there are similar motivations, “my goal is to launch my own web application, so I feel that it is important to have skills across all areas of web application development.” Whilst both acknowledged that the industry data was heavily supportive of their dream jobs, with both being in high demand, they both mention it is their passions and goals that drive them to pursue their career paths.

1. Industry growth and demand means that there is long term career flexibility.

Given the breadth of the industry and the rate that it is growing, there is a clear advantage in gaining a set of core technical skills that can be deployed in different job environments. When Tim was asked whether or not his dream job had changed, he said that “it requires a skill set that will allow me to grow and change with the IT industry as whole.” He is mindful of “the swift changes that can occur within the IT industry” and seeks a skillset that can evolve with industry development. Similarly, Brandon observed a trend in industry noting that “with cloud becoming more and more prominent” in some roles “the pay margin is decreasing.” This supported his career path which requires “proficiency in many different languages and integrating them,” offering him career security and flexibility.

As a group and as individuals, the skills we seek and the professions we strive for put us in good stead for future proofing our careers. The demand for skilled ICT workers is now high and this is forecasted only to increase as not only our nation, but as the world becomes increasingly digitalised. Roles that typically have extremely limited ICT presence are becoming increasingly rarer as tools, processes and interfaces are being developed and automated to increase efficiency, outreach and impact for businesses and individuals. Gaining core IT skills allows the team to work in a range of Industries outside IT enabling strong flexibility and adaptability when it comes to building our careers.

# IT WORK

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e have interviewed Mr Martin Harrington on 8th October 2021 via Microsoft Teams. He is a system administrator from MS Queensland in Milton Brisbane QLD with approximately 15 years of working experience in the IT industry. Please find the interview transcripts and the link to Youtube video in Appendix C of this report.

# IT Technologies

## Machine Learning

## Autonomous Vehicles

## Cybersecurity

## Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies

# Project ideas

# GROUP REFLECTION

## The group’s reflection

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verall, we consider it to be a very positive experience to be able to work together as a team. Each of us took responsibility for our allocated roles and tried our best to make a positive contribution. Fortunately, we did not encounter any impassable issues in terms of collaboration and teamwork. When a team member requested feedback, many of us actively participated in the discussion and provided constructive opinions.

Please find an example of our active forum of achieving a better outcome shown below.

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Text

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Graphical user interface, application

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Graphical user interface, text, application

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Text

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Graphical user interface, text, application

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We have conducted similar brainstorm sessions (as to the example above) via Teams chats almost daily while maintaining formal online meetings twice a week.

Overall, we feel that our engagement in our bi-weekly meetings have made some level of improvement over time. Although we struggled to keep it structured initially, we quickly learnt to hold it more efficiently by strictly following a pre-agreed agenda. Another positive aspect of our team collaboration is the cross-sharing of our knowledge base. Through exchanging our first assignment and its feedback, we came to the conclusion that some members might have skillsets that were better suited to different content areas for assignment 2. In our team, experienced members were encouraged A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generatedto share their expertise with others, creating a positive learning environment for the group. Examples were when Taylen assisted others in setting up the group’s GitHub with his self-made Youtube and when Brandon proofread the work prepared by a non-native English member.

GitHub traffic graph

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generatedChart, histogram

Description automatically generatedWe used the chats function in Teams for daily communications among members. While our daily chats were a great way for everybody to stay in touch and provide daily updates on the progress of their assigned section, we feel that this may not have been the best way to maintain our conversation records. Although we tried to keep a separate chat log for each topic, our chat history has cluttered over time, and become hard to review the past conversations. One solution may be to use the channel function or SharePoint instead of the chats function. We plan to have a planning session to brainstorm this further prior commencing assignment 3.

GitPulse History

GitHub commit graph

We have learned the hard-working nature of our group. The commitment and dedication of each member toward this assignment has been remarkable. It demonstrates our determination to succeed as mature-age students. Most of our members worked full time during the day while dedicating nights and weekends to study. We refused to waste our time and strived to take advantage of this learning opportunity.

To some extent, it was surprising to find that we functioned very well as a team. According to our personality tests, we were a relatively introverted group of individuals. We had concerns that this fact would negatively affect the way we could collaborate as a group. We are proud of overcoming our initial concerns and believe we have formed a well-organized team with a positive and supportive culture.

Each member surprised us for their uniqueness and intelligence. Ahmet is generally a quiet person but makes simple yet effective comments when he speaks up. Brandon has excellent interview skills, which surprised not only the team but also himself. Hugo has amazing people skill at such a young age. Taylen always surprises us with how skillful he is with IT. Tim is a well-balanced businessperson who is logical, thoughtful, and assertive. Tetsu is a hard-working individual who still enjoys studying in his mid-40s. What surprised us was that we all had unique strengths that positively impacted the team.

## Members’ reflection

**A person taking a selfie with a cat

Description automatically generated*Ahmet Akgun***

Our team formed soon after the assignment period started. In our first meeting, we've become familiar with each other and discussed a draft plan about what our next steps will be. From the second meeting, we've started to allocate our tasks and formed alternative plans if the necessity arises. After the third meeting, we have set out for our tasks. Towards the last two weeks, I sustained some setbacks which caused me a delay in my deadline. Thankfully, another member of our team shared my burden and completed one of the reports about an information technology subject. I have learned that as an individual I can accomplish something but as with a group I can learn and gain much more.

The group communicated frequently and openly. We have expressed our opinions and intentions. No room was left for miscommunication. Due to each member having different life commitments, sometimes it was difficult to agree on a schedule for meetings. After discussing it thoroughly, we have set and met our schedules.

**A person with a beard

Description automatically generated with medium confidence*Brandon McPherson***

My initial thoughts beginning group work for assessment 2 was rather overwhelming as this is the first time engaging in group work on an academic level. At first, I wasn’t sure what to expect as my personality test from assessment 1 suggests that I was quite introverted and so interacting with 5 strangers would be rather difficult for myself to open up. However, I surprised myself on the level of engagement and contribution from everyone. Our first few meetings were a little disorientated and unorganised, it wasn’t until before our third meeting that there was some tension within the group, it was clear that we needed a leader.

Tetsu took the initiative and nominated himself as the project leader, he developed a very well, thought out project plan on an excel spreadsheet via teams and assigned each member their role and deadline dates. We now had clarity of our objectives; this was vital for our group’s success. Tetsu’s leadership was nothing short of amazing, he was very inspiring and great to work with.

I was quite impressed with Hugo’s IT Industry data, he went above and beyond by seeking other data sources to compare that with Burning Data, he was very engaging in meetings.

Tim’s level of work ethic was self-evident, he produced exceptional work for his IT Technology and the IT project, Tim was not only engaging in meetings but was also attentive.

Taylen displayed a level intuitiveness by building an astonishing video which assisted us all in using GitHub. As we began to push content to Git, he a remoted onto our computers and assisted us with the process. He took on all our ideas and his own to build a professional website to display our content.

Ahmet was going through a tough time as his computer died however, he still attended meetings, provided input, and completed two of the IT Technologies which displayed a great deal of dedication.

Throughout the weeks, I’ve had the pleasure of working with some great people whom I would easily work with again. I’m still not convinced that all group work will be collaborative as this one was but I’m glad that my overall opinion of group work has changed and excited to begin assessment 3.

***Hugo Hughes***

**A person wearing glasses

Description automatically generated with medium confidence*Taylen Robert Anderson***

When I initially joined this group, it was quite late in the piece. I was invited by our teammate Hugo, he seemed very enthusiastic and happy to work with me. Once we had our first meeting, followed by our second I was starting to worry in regard to how our group would work without central management. From a brief discussion we were able to determine our project leader Tetsu, who was able to quickly turn us around and direct us into a clean and efficient meeting three. From this point we were able to quickly delegate tasks and start getting our project moving onward.

The group tends to over communicate in a group setting when it may be more beneficial to communicate directly to the affected people. This has the unintended side effect of causing us to lose information before it is saved and organised. The upside of this is generally the group is fell of very happy and easy people to get along with. Any problems or tasks running behind, or any help needed is very easily and quickly accommodated.

All in all this has been a very interesting experience, and I am extremely glad I have had the pleasure of working with this amazing team.

***A picture containing wall, person, person, indoor

Description automatically generatedTetsu Watanabe***

I believe that we worked very well as a team. After we allocated tasks to each member, we actively tried to assist others when time allowed. We brainstormed daily despite our busy work, and our numerous chats histories prove our daily collaboration.

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated One improvement that we can make for the next assignment may be a better use of project management tools. We used an excel spreadsheet to manage the work in progress and chats function for the team communication. Perhaps, we can consider implementing additional tools to manage both project planning and our conversation records. As Brandon suggested initially, it may be a good idea to evaluate the use of SharePoint.

I admit that I was pleasantly surprised by each of my teammates.

Ahmet surprised me with his intelligent hobbies such as chess and cosmology. Brandon is a person with fantastic literacy skills, which include not only writing but also interviewing skills. Despite his young age, I found Hugo is the best communicator who always brings our team a positive atmosphere. Taylen is a very effective self-learner who is also an outstanding teacher. As a business owner myself, I admire Tim's determination to run his business and study simultaneously.

It was an absolute pleasure to be surprised at each member's talents and persona.

Through this assignment, I was pleased to learn that we all determined to work as a team to achieve the best outcome possible. I, therefore, commit myself to support the team to the best of my ability.

**A person with a beard holding a book

Description automatically generated with low confidence*Tim Prast***

Group assignments can be a daunting prospect in any university curriculum. Often times when I see a group assignment as part of a unit I become filled with an impending feeling of anxiety, “what if we don’t work well as a team”, “what if our personalities clash” and “what if one member does not perform”. It is entirely safe to say that our group for this assignment has far exceeded my expectations. I’ve found all the group members to be proactive, communicative and team orientated. I do believe we had some teething issues at the start, as with all groups, I believe we were all too willing to compromise and allow others to lead with group members not wanting to step on another’s toes. However, an abundance of politeness and willing to compromise can also be a great thing in a new team environment as it allows each member to get a feel for the other and see how we all work.

Tetsu created an excellent spreadsheet to break down all the assignment requirements to help us divide the tasks. This was done in a very democratic way with each member letting the others know their preferences, perceived weaknesses, and strengths. Once the tasks were divided, we broke our Microsoft teams chat down into separate chats with the assigned members to facilitate better communication.

Weekly meetings allowed us all time to chat, get to know one another and collaborate and work on our assignment. Brandon showed great initiative in organizing, conducting, and facilitating an interview with an IT professional. Hugo’s boundless enthusiasm and quick wit also bought some laughter and smiles to the meetings – Not to mention is talent for writing and communicating. Taylen created an entire YouTube video to help members use GitHub to share our assignment, built our assignment website and has always been quick to help other members with problems. Ahmet worked tirelessly to complete his research task and although a quieter member of the group always had sage advice or a well-formed opinion when needed.

I’ve found the entire group assignment experience to be a very welcome surprise. I’ve learnt not to approach these situations with anxiety anymore. Each member brings something new to the table, each member has their strengths and weaknesses, and this is why group work is important, it creates a more rounded, more collaborative finished product. The group has been an absolute pleasure to work with and I can’t wait to continue working with them for assignment 3.

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    # Appendix

    ## APPENDIX A

    Graphical user interface

    Description automatically generated

    Chart, line chart

    Description automatically generated

    ## Appendix B

    Graphical user interface, application, table

    Description automatically generated

    Table

    Description automatically generated

    ## APPENDIX C

    Link to Youtube recording

    [**https://youtu.be/134lUKZ\_nhg**](https://youtu.be/134lUKZ_nhg)

    Interview Transcript

    00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:06.490  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    So thanks very much for ah coming to the interview today Martin as takes a little time out of your day to do this.

    00:00:07.670 --> 00:00:11.160  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uhm, so you OK with this being recorded?

    00:00:11.460 --> 00:00:13.830  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Yes, I'm happy for this to be recorded.

    00:00:14.080 --> 00:00:19.530  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Cool. Uh, are you able to just tell us a bit about your role and what you do?

    00:00:20.180 --> 00:00:24.880  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Sure, uh at the moment I'm working for MS Queensland in Milton.

    00:00:25.310 --> 00:00:45.280  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    uh, my job role or job title is systems administrator and being a small IT department, the role is quite varied and it's a mixture of primarily looking after these servers and infrastructure, which are Microsoft Windows based.

    00:00:46.810 --> 00:01:10.540  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Because our company also uses cloud, we look after a number of particular Microsoft Cloud services as well and also look after a bit of backups, hardware and some sort of end user devices such as workstations and mobile phones and support queries that come with that.

    00:01:11.150 --> 00:01:19.470  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Oh cool, cool. and uh, how does that impact the business at MS Queensland in your role in particular?

    00:01:20.700 --> 00:01:21.970  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Oh look, I mean.

    00:01:22.740 --> 00:01:43.240  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    the way I see IT in general is that it's needed by all businesses to operate without it they can't really operate and but basically the role and means that you know by making by keeping everything up to date and running correctly and

    00:01:43.290 --> 00:02:01.020  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    and configuring it, configuring it to look after the business needs and it means that the business is able to run smoothly. So, I sort of see it as being a reasonably important part of the uhm, the operations of the business

    00:02:02.320 --> 00:02:08.910  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Oh, thank you. Uh what was it like when you first began working in IT? Do you find it enjoying or challenging?

    00:02:09.890 --> 00:02:39.690  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Uh, well look I, I mean I started working out in IT after I… Actually, I started before I left for Uni. I had a couple of part time jobs assembling motherboards and things, but when I really started it was a bit of a jump into the unknown. What you learn at university and what it's like in real life, are two different things and I guess the one thing that I did learn is that what you're reading? Yeah, in textbooks and

    00:02:40.520 --> 00:03:21.630  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    And study for and how things actually operated are quite, can be quite different and also the one thing you don't really get told too much about is that the sort of people skills you need, because you're usually, in IT. So, if you're not a programmer, but if you're in like a sysadmin, or you do IT support, you end up sort of interacting with all levels of the business, so you could be talking to the CEO if, if a job comes that way, so yeah, that’s sort of what I, what I’ve found, and compared to what I have studied it, it can be quite different.

    00:03:22.080 --> 00:03:29.310  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    I definitely agree there, it's uhm, you know, I think there is this, like this stigma that, you know, IT pretty much.

    00:03:29.990 --> 00:03:40.640  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uhm, like very isolated from, from people but that I guess it's not really the case. It's dealing with people on a day-to-day businesses and business and stuff. Yeah.

    00:03:41.310 --> 00:03:59.550  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Yeah. Yeah, because everybody's got a device of some sorts or is using some sort of software and when they need assistance using it or if there's a problem with some hardware, they'll soon, they’ll soon come to IT to discuss that.

    00:04:01.400 --> 00:04:01.840  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Yeah.

    00:04:02.530 --> 00:04:15.400  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uh, was there another job in mind, or that you were doing before you got into the IT field? Uh and was there something about the other job or career path that led you into IT or exposure interest into the field?

    00:04:15.960 --> 00:04:46.170  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Ah yeah, look, that's a good question. To tell you the truth, when I was still a student, I kind of didn't have quite a clear idea of what I wanted to do, so I actually did a mixture of business and IT and even during the course then I still wasn't sure. So, when I actually did leave (Uni), my first job was an IT job and it wasn't quite how I perceived it to be, but I stuck with it. So, in all truthfulness since I've left Uni

    00:04:46.220 --> 00:05:03.790  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    I've, I've just pretty much been doing, doing IT and yeah. So, if somebody gave me a different role, it wouldn't be, it be, it takes a little bit to get used to. So yeah, look IT has been primarily my, my work since I've finished.

    00:05:04.570 --> 00:05:04.990  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Cool, cool.

    00:05:05.900 --> 00:05:12.310  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uhm, do you engage much with the other areas of the business? And if so, what do you discuss with them?

    00:05:15.000 --> 00:05:19.700  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Ah look, not as much as some previous roles.

    00:05:21.350 --> 00:05:51.450  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    I think usually if there's a project that comes up where another part of the business, whether it's marketing, finance, etc that need something, then there's a higher level of interaction, but at the moment it's very ad hoc so it could be anybody who comes by and asks a question and get some, get some assistance or talk about a particular future project. But yeah, there's not a specific part of the business at the moment that I'm dealing with.

    00:05:54.340 --> 00:06:00.970  
    Brandon McPherson  
    With umm, when you're at University, I guess cause obviously technology has changed quite a bit.

    00:06:01.570 --> 00:06:18.280  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uhm, you know, with me doing it now anyway, it seems like it's touching on things like artificial intelligence and machine learning, which I think is fairly, fairly new, or I guess it's uh as a bit more of a trend.

    00:06:17.820 --> 00:06:18.740  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Cutting edge?

    00:06:19.330 --> 00:06:33.140  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Yeah, what was it like when you're in Uni? What were some of the, I guess the real new things at the time and how's that sort of shaped the IT space now?

    00:06:33.450 --> 00:06:42.950  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Gosh well, it's ah, this is gonna show my age, but I guess as I was sort of really getting doing IT at Uni

    00:06:44.380 --> 00:07:02.720  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    The actual, I think underlying operating system was Linux that was running a lot of the systems for the university and umm when I was there, the command line was still quite popular.

    00:07:03.480 --> 00:07:47.510  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    that I think windows 3.1 or umm was sort of around, and Windows 95 hadn't come out really by then. So, our talk was about, you know, object orientated programming. It was about the graphical user interface, and it was about talking about you know 32-bit programs, 64-bit hadn't really been discussed so that was that was the cutting edge was that I guess it was the GUI. Windows still booted into the command prompt, but then continued onto loading Windows itself before it was MS Dos. So, so yeah, that was that was where all the excitement was at, at the time.

    00:07:48.510 --> 00:08:02.050  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    And umm, with the GUI, I know that uh, obviously back then it was very popular for I guess, you know, users of, I guess, for the main public to get familiar with computers as the command line can be a bit scary, I guess or intimidating.

    00:08:05.860 --> 00:08:06.780  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Yeah.

    00:08:03.250 --> 00:08:25.960  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    For new users, but I guess now. I guess the GUI for a technician. It creates a lot of space on the, on the memory and hard disk. Is it sort of coming away a bit from the GUI or do you think the GUI is still being pushed?

    00:08:26.940 --> 00:08:29.880  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Uh, oh with the future of the operating systems?

    00:08:28.980 --> 00:08:29.280  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Yeah.

    00:08:30.690 --> 00:08:53.980  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Oh I think the GUI is here to stay, umm but as you've seen and I've seen, Microsoft found that there was limitations on what the GUI could do. So, they’ve created PowerShell to really assist sort of administrators and people that needed to really control their computers to be much more powerful.

    00:08:55.420 --> 00:09:31.370  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    So I, I still think there's, there's, you know, the GUI will continue to evolve and as Windows 11 is showing and that is always going to be there for either the general end user but the command line will, will always be prominent and I think there are though limitations with the command line and what made the GUI more popular was the fact that unless you know, that unless you know want to type. You never going to be able to do anything with it, so the GUI was, it was inevitable. Yes…

    00:09:31.930 --> 00:09:41.720  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Yeah, that's ah that's really good. Uh what, which other aspects of work do you find most challenging within your role?

    00:09:42.960 --> 00:10:17.650  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Umm, I think it's, it's juggling the multiple tasks with limited resources, whether that's not having the funding for enough hardware available to swap, you know to, to swap things out, whether it's enough software licenses and just how rapidly the businesses is changing but at the same time they they're not supporting IT.

    00:10:18.790 --> 00:10:28.320  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Yeah, so I. I feel that that though that's the challenging thing is there's a, there's a lot of business change, but IT is not getting the funding

    00:10:29.270 --> 00:10:43.220  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    The support that IT needs to, to sort of adapt and grow with the business for IT to be on the forefront rather than on the always on the back foot. So that that's what my perception is.

    00:10:44.280 --> 00:10:55.540  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    I think yeah, it's funny with like I guess. I know there's some people in uni that they come from all different backgrounds and from different careers. And one thing that sort of stood out to me was.

    00:10:57.510 --> 00:11:23.300  
    **Brandon McPherson**As they sort of in their prominent roles at time, they've seen how much IT is evolved and now they've, they're really doing uni to sort of learn it, sort of compliment them. It's kind of, even doing a case study the other day on a bank, they they've transformed their model now from “it's not just a bank, but now a Technology company that does banking or specialises banking.”

    00:11:22.130 --> 00:11:22.780  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Right.

    00:11:24.310 --> 00:11:41.100  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    It's kind of. It's funny to see, like maybe that might be something that MS Queensland can perhaps offer or change. Maybe with time or uh, maybe that's a trend that businesses are going towards where they're sort of pushing more or sort of building applications, and I don't know that that's.

    00:11:42.070 --> 00:11:45.080  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    So uh, what, what do you think on that one? What's your thoughts?

    00:11:45.170 --> 00:12:14.850  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Ah, oh look. I mean, banks have large resources to fund those kinds of projects. I think something like MS Queensland might decide to produce an application or get a third party to assist with producing an application that might benefit people were in with their MS. I don't, I don't sort of see that happening at the moment but knowing what the nurse call systems are and

    00:12:14.920 --> 00:12:42.520  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    currently being used and paid for by the company to, to look up to assist people with multiple sclerosis. I think there there's certainly room for improvement there and but yeah, it's, it's difficult to say that MS Queensland would have that kind of appetite to produce its own software or become a sort of software led house at this stage, I think they've got some more growing to do before they, they look at that.

    00:12:45.200 --> 00:12:49.810  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uh, in what aspects about your job that you find most award rewarding?

    00:12:51.100 --> 00:13:21.770  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Ah, good question. I think that there's a certain level of freedom even though we can use change requests that, that you “know you're the things that you're doing”, that they're actually benefiting the company and obviously the end users are the client, the staff, and the people with MS, so where some jobs always feels like you're pushing a pen around, this one you can.

    00:13:22.030 --> 00:13:53.470  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    You can put forward suggestions to improve either the software being used, or the way that the end users are interacting with their workstations or devices, and they get listened to, and you know, usually if there is, there's the costs is negligible or none, and it can be supported properly then there's usually an agreement quite quickly to say, yeah we can. We can do that that.

    00:13:53.540 --> 00:13:59.340  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    That looks like a good suggestion. So yeah, being listened to by the company and by the IT team is, is great.

    00:14:03.790 --> 00:14:16.400  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    that that's one thing. There's nothing. There's nothing better than creating something I think, and that that's certainly what we're able to, to achieve in this role.

    00:14:17.170 --> 00:14:26.500  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Mmm, that's cool. And like you get, so I guess that's sort of yeah, you get to see that the technology. Sort of I guess helps there. I guess they work as well

    00:14:27.070 --> 00:14:28.750  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uhm yeah cool.

    00:14:29.350 --> 00:14:36.240  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uhm, are you able to share an example of some of the work that best captures the essence of your role?

    00:14:37.440 --> 00:15:03.040  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    The work? Oh gosh, well, if I thought verbally I don't, I'll have to… I think when there were things that I sort of achieved when I came in that I feel shows that would be the, when all the desktops and laptops were sort of running and the mobile phone…

    00:15:04.380 --> 00:15:44.950  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    So basically, the end user devices were set up and configured, they were all working, you know, reasonably well, but there was a lot of the management of them, the software and that they're just the general administration of them was a little out of date, so luckily the business allowed us to buy some better Microsoft licensing, which then allowed us to or allowed me to look at moving the devices from just a central computer that managed them into like a Microsoft Cloud based service called “Intune”.

    00:15:45.020 --> 00:16:12.350  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    and when I think back to when I first started. Some sort of testing it out and seeing what it, what it could do to what it does now. It's become quite like an essential tool to, to manage the machines to deploy software and configuration, and to just keep an eye on what those machines are doing and the Windows updates there was. So now they're, they're more compliant and more standard with Microsoft practices.

    00:16:13.120 --> 00:16:36.240  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    So yeah, to me that, that tool now has become, certainly from my point of view quite an essential tool to ensure that people have an up-to-date Windows operating system, or a managed Android phone and we can just yeah, manage and administer it much better than we could before.

    00:16:36.540 --> 00:16:42.610  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Ah Brilliant, yeah. It's crazy. We've just learned about cloud in our uni studies.

    00:16:43.670 --> 00:16:55.060  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uh, could you tell us a bit about… ah obviously, I think from memory or is it cloud that was sort of around since 2008 by AWS?

    00:16:55.880 --> 00:17:08.060  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uh, I guess what was it like… were you around when servers, before servers began to be virtualized on computing? Or they, that sort of always been around?

    00:17:09.520 --> 00:17:40.910  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Uh well, like I mean AWS sort have, well I was working in IT and you know you started to hear people talking about it and how, I mean, Amazon Web Services came about because they, they realize they had so much compute power still available that they could maybe offer it to customers as a as a way of them offloading some of their on-premises stuff to work on their servers and the whole name of cloud kind of came about, and

    00:17:41.240 --> 00:17:42.170  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    oh, I don't know that.

    00:17:42.690 --> 00:18:09.490  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Yeah, yeah. I think they just yeah, Amazon obviously had the expertise, and they had the data centres around which were primarily for just optimizing their Amazon website and their back end and they just use that too, then start to offer it to business customers so I guess, sort of seeing the change was

    00:18:09.540 --> 00:18:39.410  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    where you started to hear businesses talking about “We're going to”, you know there was the big data talk and all of that was where you know businesses realized they had a limitation on how much they could keep on their on-prem and then there was and I think it will kind of coincided with the having, you know, the cost of having a dedicated Internet line and Ethernet to a data centre just so

    00:18:40.090 --> 00:19:03.390  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    because of obviously businesses could move their computers away from the office and put them in a data centre and then it was kind of a natural progression once the back end, once the Internet back end improved and the speeds were there that they could start to maybe move more things away from on-premises where there was that that ongoing cost of looking after the data centre.

    00:19:03.920 --> 00:19:33.490  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Uhm, and knew the risk around, the risk around there being outages, as I, sort of saw in someone I used to work for at Sun Super that they had problems with the flood, the big floods and it caused a lot of issues for them. So, I think there was the appetite from that point on to like go “OK, let's, let's see what we can move off the on-premises the into the cloud because Amazon is now offering it” though

    00:19:33.790 --> 00:19:58.020  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Microsoft was a little bit late to the party and some businesses I noticed were reluctant to go over to Amazon because it was quite a different level of expertise needed for that and there was nothing until Microsoft brought out, I think when they brought out, you know, moving your emails off (to O365) that’s when people really started to look at the Microsoft products.

    00:19:58.630 --> 00:20:03.010  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Uhm, and you know Amazon was obviously still offering it, specialized services as well. So yeah, I think that you know “Them seeing it” has made a real difference, I think nearly every business have wanted to move more and more things away, but I remember there being a sense of fear with my colleagues because they were concerned that they were going to lose their jobs

    00:20:24.710 --> 00:20:25.030  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    ah, yep.

    00:20:25.210 --> 00:20:46.940  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    because if they move to the cloud, why do they need any of these people to look after servers and things like that, so that's what I kind of experienced, but so far I think it's just meant that everybody’s role has changed so you need to understand and be able to use the cloud services and yeah, that’s what I, That’s what I’ve noticed in my time.

    00:20:47.800 --> 00:20:55.430  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    And uh, has using the cloud technologies, has that made your life easier as a systems administrator?

    00:20:55.780 --> 00:21:17.800  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Yeah, I, I think so. Umm, we as sysadmins had to spend so much time out of hours patching servers and building new servers, but thankfully with virtualization that helped lot as well. So, outages you, you could have enough hardware so you could kind of build, build your hardware up without losing

    00:21:18.420 --> 00:21:47.630  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    The end user losing any sort of that time with access to those systems so seeing, seeing the changes has made it made it sort of easier because the, I guess in a way, the responsibility for some of that has now moved off the sysadmin shoulders and onto the cloud provider and as the cloud provider has more redundancy and they've got more expertise

    00:21:48.630 --> 00:22:07.370  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    In every single facet in their data centres, it means it takes a bit of the sort of weekly daily maintenance away, routine away from the sysadmin so that they can concentrate on other projects. Other services that are running.

    00:22:08.490 --> 00:22:26.660  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    So I think it's been a, it's been a good thing that that there's less time needed to be spent on just general patching and updating on their servers, operating system, and even, even just like the databases and ah, yeah, the hardware.

    00:22:27.820 --> 00:22:28.360  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Cool, yeah.

    00:22:28.800 --> 00:22:47.790  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uh, one last question too uh, where do you see the trend of computers and technology is going towards? Does this Excite you? Or makes you worried a bit about the future? Just before the, you know everything going virtualized and moving to the cloud, you know, I guess you know when you look at shows like Mr Robot.

    00:22:48.580 --> 00:22:49.300  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Yeah.

    00:22:48.800 --> 00:22:52.750  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Cyber-attacks, so, what's your opinion on that?

    00:22:53.220 --> 00:23:24.890  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    oh look, it’s interesting that you mention Mr Robot. I think there's quite a bit of fact based in, in those, in that show and I think there's, I think there's going to be a day where, there's going to be that you know, there's always going to be risk when you're getting more connected, but everything is getting more connected and I think that there's going to be a day where there's going to be some big outage on mobile phones, I can see that coming

    00:23:25.580 --> 00:23:55.490  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    I think there's going to be some great things where the computers will be, you know, like they've been, already been used, you know, in sort of intelligence to build better CPUs so that the computers themselves are using AI to assist with that and I'm sure that that's helping with building better if more efficient data centres. I think the world needs, needs to sort of have more, more kind of intelligence from AI and, and that, because I think the world is

    00:23:55.680 --> 00:24:10.380  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    in a bit of a mess in terms of the environment and that, and we, we need, you know, seeing Covid and obviously the only reason we could get the vaccine was because of the, the raw compute power that was there to, to kind of come up with some, some

    00:24:10.000 --> 00:24:11.930  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Oh I did not know that, that's crazy!

    00:24:12.220 --> 00:24:48.080  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Yeah, you know that, that could’ve been the only reason there could have been developed that quickly was because they could throw it into some cloud based, you know, systems that could crunch the data very quickly, umm so I think that there's some great things that they're going to come for it and I think the pace is just going to continue, and I think the price ,once we get over the Covid short, the costs of the, the sort of hardware components at the moment in a couple years, I think there's, you know, technology is just going to continue to be cheaper and when you look at what a smart watch can do now, so I ,I think there's going to be more

    00:24:48.310 --> 00:25:00.920  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Uhm connection with, with what's out there, any device you know you're gonna sort of get a receipt and it's going to be a small receipt or it will be kind of connected to the Internet, something they'll be something like that.

    00:25:02.210 --> 00:25:30.960  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    umm I, I think there's gotta be, I'm concerned about how people are becoming so tide to their, their mobile phones, their smartwatches to their devices that there, there’s sort of society and the way it interacts with each other and the way that sort of like there's that misinformation and all the, there's the good side of something like social media but there's also the bad side, so I think it's going to be

    00:25:31.010 --> 00:25:47.540  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    there's going to be growing pains, but there will be more rules around it just like the Internet was like the Wild West when it first became popular and used more and everybody could do everything. There's going to be more policing around all their software services and

    00:25:48.330 --> 00:26:02.050  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    things such as, you know, social media but I think it's, it's exciting times but how people are going to balance it with reality interacting with the technology and interacting with reality? I think that's where I’m unbothered.

    00:26:02.740 --> 00:26:07.330  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    I'm, that’s what I’m concerned about. Not, not to worry about Skynet just yet.

    00:26:09.170 --> 00:26:22.940  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Yeah, I guess that's, that's one thing that gets me really worried, but you know, like, I think one thing, I'm always thinking about is before these systems go into the cloud, like what happens if some malicious, you know software gets

    00:26:23.510 --> 00:26:32.380  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    I mean it, it would be hard for it to do, I'm sure. Yeah, I mean all it takes is malicious software to, you know, enter like, let's say Google's data centre and just sort of start, you know.

    00:26:33.270 --> 00:26:42.780  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Propagating against their, their systems and you know, like take a big portion of the Internet down, and I guess something that on the Internet. Yeah.

    00:26:39.540 --> 00:26:40.100  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Yeah.

    00:26:43.750 --> 00:26:44.110  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Yeah.

    00:26:44.920 --> 00:26:50.800  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    It's relied on so much just like the, the other day, there was that DNS error

    00:26:51.830 --> 00:27:21.060  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    and then it's caused Facebook and Instagram and everything to go down and you know, so many organisations rely on Facebook to communicate with people. So, it, it does make you know it doesn't make me realize, make businesses hopefully realize that they can't just rely on one form of, you know, they can't put all their eggs in one basket that that's the quickest way to sum it up. because if they do, there's going to be these outages, even Microsoft services, you know, we experienced those once in a while service degradation

    00:27:21.250 --> 00:27:43.490  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    service degradation with, with their products so yeah, yeah, a business, I think and people just should not always rely, you should always assume that maybe all those photos you've got backed up to the cloud. I've got my photos on three different providers so that if one goes, if Google goes, I’ve got Amazon Glacier or I've got Microsoft one drive.

    00:27:37.840 --> 00:27:38.270  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Wow.

    00:27:44.260 --> 00:27:48.510  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    So umm, yeah, don't put your eggs in one basket that, that’s my thinking.

    00:27:47.740 --> 00:27:48.040  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Yes.

    00:27:49.390 --> 00:27:59.510  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    So uh, what do you, just really quickly. What's your thoughts about the evolution of human ethics with, with computers and the privacy and stuff?

    00:28:00.380 --> 00:28:03.460  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Ah yeah, look well.

    00:28:04.930 --> 00:28:16.990  
    Martin Harrington  
    We, when we joined Gmail or joining Google, get a Google account or Microsoft, we're already agreeing to some, some quite, you know questionable I guess

    00:28:18.320 --> 00:28:47.190  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    legislative, not legislation but rules within, within the user terms and conditions. I think the governments have got to keep on top of it because you know, they're the Google and Microsoft and, and Apple and so on all scraping our data and collecting it so they already have a large pool. Even though they say synonymized large pullover information, but we've just got, I think you just have to accept if you say something

    00:28:47.240 --> 00:29:24.300  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    if you put something on the Internet, you know, just accept that, that could be used against you. It could be copied, so just, you just have to be mindful of that and I think no matter what rules the government put in place, there's, and even if the businesses abide by them, all it takes is a breach and all your data or some of your data is out there. So, Just yeah, I think you just gotta be guarded and make sure you've got paper copies of things and accept that what you’ve put out there, could you know, have sensitivities. You just gotta be careful.

    00:29:25.750 --> 00:29:32.780  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    That's really good! Thank you very much for doing the interview with me Martin. It's been really good.

    00:29:33.270 --> 00:29:34.060  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Oh, you're welcome.

    00:29:32.830 --> 00:29:38.650  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Just taking the time out of your day to do this, so I've, I've learnt a lot, so thank you very much.

    00:29:39.100 --> 00:29:41.830  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Uhm yeah, thank you.

    00:29:42.680 --> 00:29:46.700  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    No worries, Brandon. Thank you for those, they they're good questions. They definitely got me thinking.

    00:29:47.360 --> 00:29:47.700  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Thanks.

    00:29:47.990 --> 00:29:50.330  
    **Martin Harrington**  
    Alright, well thanks very much, bye then.

    00:29:50.690 --> 00:29:51.330  
    **Brandon McPherson**  
    Thank you, bye. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)