Software Engineer Biography

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## Executive Summary

The software engineer I have chosen to write about is my cousin Mark Hennessy. I have chosen him as he is the software engineer who most inspires me.

## Early Life

Mark Hennessy was born in Dublin on 27th November 1980. He grew near Clane, Co. Kildare where he attended Scoil Mhuire Community School. From 1998 to 2002 he studied Computer Science at NUI Maynooth where he graduated with 1st class honours. After this he received the IRCSET scholarship and started work on a PhD under the supervision of Dr James F Power. In 2006 he completed his PhD with his research being "A test-driven development strategy for the construction of grammar-based software"(1).

## Career

From 2006 to 2007 he worked as a lecturer in NUI Maynooth where he taught the modules Discrete Structures 1, Programming and Masters C++ Workshop(1). He then chose to pursue a career in the software industry.

In 2007 he was hired by Microsoft to be a software engineer in Sandyford, Dublin where he worked on projects such as Cloud Infrastructure Services, Windows Mobile Location Services, Hotmail Mobile Wave 3 and Mobile Device Data Services(2)

In 2010 he was promoted to Principal Software Engineer Manager which required him to move to the United States as this position was in Microsoft’s headquarters in Redmond, WA. In this role he works primarily with Microsoft Azure services. Since 2010 he has worked on “Azure Traffic Manager, Azure Virtual Networks, Azure ExpressRoute plus many other highly scalable and fault tolerant cloud infrastructure services that power Microsoft Azure”(2). He is currently leading the Azure Networking team and is “[r]esponsible for delivering synthetic and analytic monitoring for multiple features and services that power the network that runs the Microsoft Cloud”(2).

## Why I have chosen this software engineer

I have chosen Mark Hennessy as he is the software engineer who most inspires me. I have never been inspired by the most famous software engineers/computer scientists. I find it almost impossible to be inspired by a person I have never met as I don’t view them as person but rather a name attached to an accomplishment. For example, when I hear names like Bill Gates or Linus Torvalds I find it hard to imagine them doing everyday tasks such as making a cup of tea or coffee in their kitchen, I always imagine them sitting 24 hours a day at their computer working on their accomplishments. However, I can easily imagine Mark doing everyday tasks since I know him personally and have seen him do such tasks in his daily life.

Another reason I chose Mark Hennessy is because of the perceived similarities between the two of us. Growing up, my parents noticed I was an avid reader, talented at maths independent minded. These are traits I share with Mark as I often recall my mother comparing me to him (Mark is my mother’s sister’s son). These similarities perhaps resulted in me choosing to study history and physics in the leaving cert. Only a few months ago I learned that Mark chose to study these same subjects when he did the leaving cert which I think adds to the comparisons. Even something as innocuous as storing a water bottle in the freezer is an action we both do whereas other relatives in our family don’t.

The most significant similarity between Mark and I is how we both developed an interest in computers and video games. As children we both enjoyed playing video games, he playing them on his GameBoy and I playing them on my Nintendo DS. Throughout my childhood, I often heard about Mark’s progress in his career from my understandably proud auntie who would also praise me for my similar personality to him. She noticed that I was confident, self-motivated and mature for my age which were traits she used to describe Mark.

Perhaps it is due to these comparisons in my life that I subconsciously chose to study computer science in university and aspire for a career in this field over others. These are the reasons why I chose to write my essay on Mark Hennessy.

## Sources

1. <http://www.cs.may.ie/~markh/>
2. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mark-hennessy-11714b8/>