## Personal Information

Welcome to my webpage and thank you for taking the time to come and view it. My name is Mara Jade and this page is a brief introduction about myself. This page contains some general information about me and my hobbies as well as contact details at the bottom.

Name: Tamara Jade Brice, aka Mara Jade

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Nationality: Australian, South Australian, Adelaide

Education to date:

I have been working in the field of Telecommunications for 12 years. I originally entered the field due to being CCNA qualified and while working with my current employer I completed Certificate III in Telecommunications. I then continued to focus on improving my CISCO qualifications and with the assistance of my employer I have had the opportunity to further my studies and have completed:

* Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP)
* Cisco Aggregation Services Router 9000 Series Essentials (CLS-ASR9KE)
* Cisco Prime Collaboration Provisioning (CLS-PCP)
* Managing Enterprise Networks with Cisco Prime Infrastructure (CLS-MENPI)
* Configuring Border Gateway Protocol on Cisco Routers (BGP)
* Deploying Cisco Wireless Enterprise Networks (WIDEPLOY)
* Implementing Cisco Wireless Network Fundamentals (WIFUND)
* Securing Cisco Wireless Enterprise Networks (WISECURE)
* I also am certified to Design, Install & Managed Meraki & Aruba Wifi Networks

Languages: English

Hobbies/Sport Pets Etc:

Outside of work I spend a great deal of time working on my Rally Cars, I compete in the South Australian Rally Championship (When funds permit) and I am currently building a new Rally Car from scratch, using a 1994 ED Falcon as the shell.

I also enjoy playing D&D and I am currently a member of three groups two of which I currently DM and I enjoy Cosplaying with my partner at events like AVCon and Supanova when they are in Adelaide. As part of our cosplaying I am currently working on a Star Wars 501st Imperial Guard Costume that I hope to have finished this year.

I also spend time working with several volunteer organizations, Such as The Australian Communications Radio Monitors (ACRM for Short) who provide communications support using UHF radios and repeaters to local community events such as Cycling SA, The Barossa Airshow, Targa Rally Championship (Nationally) and many others.

As well as volunteering with the Adelaide Brown Coats and Shine SA where we run charity event to raise money for Equality Now, The Cancer Council, Oxfam & Essentials 4 Women SA.

I have three adorable cats, Nightcrawler “Nighty”, Rocket Raccoon “Rocky”, Eevee (Yes like the Pokemon) and they are basically my children and I also am a little bit of a Nerd if you haven’t noticed and like all things Sci-Fi, High Fantasy and Pop culture.

## Interest in IT

My interest in IT has been developing for years, I first got interested during high school when the PC I used for my homework broke and one of my classmates taught me how to rebuild it. From there I started building my own gaming machines and got heavily into gaming and 3d modeling and making mods for games. I played around with 3ds in my spare time making ship models for games such as Freelancer and X-Wing Alliance. At school I decided to do both my CCNA and Aries A+ which helped me get a job at my current employer. Once I got a full-time job, I ended up doing a lot of networking and spreadsheet work and have spent a lot of time writing macros in excel. I haven’t had a great opportunity to further my PC programing skills since school focusing entirely on networking equipment and I miss making small apps and programs.

I chose to study at RMIT because of the positive reviews on OUA, I was looking for a flexible way to get back into studying IT in the hope of changing careers or furthering my job and OUA seemed a good way to do that without leaving work. I did a lot of research while deciding if I would go ahead and as part of that research, I found RMIT had very positive feedback and based off of that feedback decided to register to study at RMIT through OUA.

I am hoping that through the course of this study I can narrow down what part of IT I would like to focus on. I have always been drawn to programing but there are so many different languages and types of programing that I am not across. I really hope that this course will help me gain a better understanding of what direction I want to specialize in while also picking up the fundamentals and a broad basic understanding of the industry.

## My ideal Job

As part of researching for this assignment I found the role of Infrastructure Automation Consultant for the Defense department. As Linked Below.

<https://www.seek.com.au/job/41076722?type=standard#searchRequestToken=0906a88d-57f7-436c-bda7-6341d01397ba>



The position of Infrastructure Automation Consultants for defense would presumably be based on providing standard infrastructure automation such as reducing or removing human interaction with critical IT systems to improve repeatability and limit human error. Things that currently use IT automation include cloud computing, system provisioning and application deployment such as remote loading operating systems. This would be especially challenging for defense as they may be using a lot of custom noncommercial technology and may have additional security and safety requirements. Working with defense could be very different from working with normal companies as presumably they have different priorities around reliability, repeatability and redundancy. I think working as defense contractor would be a great opportunity.

In addition to the normal IT requirements because this role is for Defense it also requires a minimum of NV1 (Negative Vetting 1) defense clearance, if you cannot qualify for NV1 or higher the IT requirements don’t matter. In addition to requiring NV1, you need experience working with VMware (Virtual machines) as well as experience with Windows Server 10 & PowerShell which are both Microsoft applications. Lastly, they are also looking for someone with experience in Splunk. According to the Splunk website it is a big data infrastructure security system that gives you insights into operational performance.

I currently have very few skills for this job, I have a basic grounding in the windows server platform from previous training on Server 2008 and Server 2012. I have a basic understanding of PowerShell based on work I have done previously but very limited practical experience with Windows 10. I would need to upskill significantly to get back to an productive level in both Windows Serve & PowerShell. I have had extensive training and practice using VMWare as part of learning to install and implement Cisco Prime and other networking devices such as radius servers which are commonly are installed on VM’s to avoid needing multiple physical devices. I have no experience with Splunk and would need training in that. Importantly however I have a current NV1 clearance so that is one major hurdle already take care of.

My plan to get this job begins with completing my Degree, as part of the dree I will hopefully pick up experience with many of the core skills I need.

Once my degree is finished I would look for a position that would also involve automation – preferably using windows 10 to increase my experience in that area, while doing this I would look into either furthering my training with additional courses either though Uni or through companies liker DDLS to gain additional skills in PowerShell, & Server 10

I would also (time permitting) in parallel to my current studies begin looking into the Certification tracks for Splunk. Splunk offer several online training paths for different areas of expertise IE: Power User, Admin, Architect, Developer & Security etc. Their entry level courses are free and once completed I would hopefully have enough knowledge about the program to know what additional courses I should take.

Hopefully I would be able to get a position after graduating that would allow me to build on these skills as well so that after gaining industry experience using these told I would then be able to apply for the position.

Additionally while studying, and gaining the skills for this position I would need to maintain my NV1 status so when I do leave my current role I would need to find other roles that also involve defense work so that my clearance would not expire. It also would be worthwhile upgrading to a NV2 as the NV1 is a minimum requirement and upgrading to NV2 is something that I hope to do in the future.