Interviewee Brief

These interviews are being shown to final year students in the Master of IT course at Deakin University. These students are undertaking a capstone project, which involves working in a cross-disciplinary team to deliver real client projects as a prerequisite to graduate.

These interviews explore the myths, roles and careers of IT professionals and projects. We want to deliver wisdom about project delivery from practitioners and to support the transition of the audience from a university student to someone entering the workforce.

These interviews are casual in nature and we will not necessarily ask all these questions. If you think of good questions that you would have liked to hear about as a graduate, please feel free to send them my way!

The videos will be heavily edited to be released in three formats:
1) Question based: The questions are largely the same across all interviews, so we'll be consolidating every participant's answers to present 5 to 7 minute videos that consolidate answers per question or topic.
2) Participant based: This will be the 'About You' video where we give the viewer a look into your background. We will also release longer form answers to some of the questions.
3) Uncut: Depending on response to the videos, we ***might*** release censored, uncut footage of the entire interview for students to consume.

Due to the way we are filming, please take a 2 second pause before beginning your answer. Fret not, I'll walk you through the process as we go along.

About you

- Introduce yourself, name, position, company and what did you study
- What do you do
- How long have you been a <role>
- How did you become a <role>

About your role

- Debunk the myths of this role.
  - What people think you do?
  - What you actually do… walk us through your average day?
- What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?
- What happens when you drop the ball?
- Teach me something new about <role>
- Migrate countries?
- Migrate careers?
- Did you think this was where you would end up?
- What traits make a good <role>
- What is a (multi-year) career in <role> actually like?

Future of the role

- If you could go back in time to when you first graduated, in one sentence what advice would you give yourself?
  - Are you following that now?
- How quickly do things change in your role?
- How important is it for you to stay on top of new developments, technologies and tools?
- What would a <role> look like in 5-10 years?
- Strategies to adapt and stay relevant?
- What is your secret to success?
- How does IT impact your life and the way you do your job?
- How have the roles/responsibilities of the people around you changed?

Your role in projects

- What is the role of <role> in delivering a project?
- Do all projects succeed?
- What are the major risks and priorities of project in <role>
- What do your successful projects have in common?

Hiring graduates for your role

- What do you look for in a graduate interview candidate for this role?
- What should graduates today be doing to set themselves apart and improve their chances of getting into this field?

Discipline specific questions

Software Engineering

- Is knowing specific programming languages important?
- Is there more to engineering than writing code in a windowless basement office?
- How do you advocate learning a new technology?
- Is there more to software engineering than code cutting?

AI/DS and Research

- What is your field in AI/DS?
- Is there more to AI/DS than number crunching?
- How is AI/DS employed commercially?
- What's your favourite technique or approach to an AI/DS project?

UI/UX

- When does UI/UX get involved in the lifecycle of a project?
- Is there more to UI/UX than drawing interfaces?
- What are your 'rules of thumb' for UI/UX design?

Cyber Security and Networking

- What are some of the current privacy and legal concerns around data transmission and retention?
- What strategies would you advise to circumvent the impact of rogue employees and the office politics of data access and password strength?
- How have you educated colleagues/clients about risks and threats?
- Is there more to this discipline beyond ethernet cables and scolding people?