The ‘Information Technology’ industry as a whole is an extensive and a highly dynamic field with a a multidimensional expanse that reaches directly, or indirectly into different aspects of societies and peoples’ daily lives, constantly changing and evolving the way in which civilisations function. As such, the I.T. industry is one of the most robust in the world offering vast opportunities for I.T. technicians and professionals of all kinds to pursue a career in a multitude of forms within the industry itself, therefore making it an attractive vocation for many, particularly in the developed world. However, as appealing and exciting as the I.T. industry may be, and can be an overwhelming and misleading task trying to determine where to start for applicants’ new to the field. To help resolve this, we endeavoured to seek out and interview an experienced I.T. professional to gain better insight into the daily workings, encounters and career progression of an industry professional.

We were very fortunate to be granted an interview with Peter Smith, an accomplished and highly proficient leader and manager in ‘Information Technology’, adult education, project and change management. Peter has over 30 years experience in technical industries on a statewide and national basis, with a multitude of qualifications, ranging from trade proficiency certificates, diplomas, advanced & graduate diplomas, through to bachelor’s degree. Having had several roles over the course of his career, Peter has developed an extensive range of skills as a: Quality, Audit and Risk manger, Teacher and Coordinator, National Customer Service Manager and Technical Services Manager, as well as an Electronics and Senior Technician. Peter had developed and obtained these titles and skill through his employment with several TAFE Institutes, Amstrad Pty Ltd., ComputerLand Australia, Toshiba Australia, Thorn EMI Information Technology, System One, and the Royal Australian Navy to name a few.

(Peter had developed and obtained these titles and skill through his employment with multiple TAFE Institutes, several electronics companies, in addition to multinational conglomerates for I.T. communications systems and defence equipment, and the Royal Australian Navy to name a few).

Peter generously gave 30 minutes of his time to answer the following questions:

1. Please tell us about your IT work. What exactly do you do?
2. Please tell us about the industry you work in?
3. How did you start in the IT industry - was there specific qualifications you acquired to do this?
4. Was there a time during learning your trade, that you thought about giving up?
5. As you’ve had several different roles within the IT industry, which would you describe as the most IT intensive/relevant/specific?
6. What other kinds of work do you have to do within your current role?
7. In your most IT specific role, who are the different people you interact within your work?
8. In the context of your position, how would you interact with other IT professionals?
9. Were you required to interact with clients and/or investors?
10. What aspects of your work do you spend the most time on?
11. Of all your IT roles, which was the most challenging, and what were the specific aspects that made it so challenging?
12. Can you share an example of the work you have done that best captures the essence of the IT industry?
13. What area of IT do you think has the greatest impact on society as a whole?
14. In a broader sense, regarding changes to licensing requirements and registration of software engineers, what impact do think this will have on the IT industry and software engineers in particular?
15. What are your views on outsourcing roles within the IT industry offshore, is this beneficial or harmful to the Australian IT industry?
16. What advice would you have for someone wanting to pursue a career as an IT professional, particularly in Australia?

The full interview and Peter’s answers to these questions can be listened to here: