

Reflection

I worked as a Systems Analyst in a variety of industries for over 40 years. I have a lengthy resume that shows I worked as a consultant to some great companies, many of which no longer exist. I have had a presence on LinkedIn for many years.

As I am retired I cannot say I am facing many challenges on the career front. I feel that I have served my society well and earned the right to enjoy what remains of my life. I feel grateful I am no longer in the rat race, trying to be all things to all people.

The path I followed in my career was unique and rewarding. Creating a brand seems to me to be a sales technique and invites people to be something other than authentic. I am especially concerned about Social Media and the way it seems to push people towards conformance and away from individual expression.

We are truly in unprecedented times where any person can reach any other person anywhere in the world. Frankly, the need to have an online presence concerns me. I guess it is because the first ten years of my career were in the arena of military intelligence that I have learned to keep a low profile.

And, I must say upon reflection, all my clients preferred discretion in all things. The first thing a prospective client wants from me is an NDA before they even talk to me about the skills they hope I can provide. It is the reason you will find my resume is low key. I get paid to ensure the client can claim ownership of all I produce.

I am not sure "continuously update and improve your resume and LinkedIn profile" would have been wise in my situation. Many of the projects I have worked on took six months to two years to complete. During those periods I would be in violation of my NDA to disclose anything about my current work. It has always been best for me to wait till a project is complete to write a summary of my accomplishments. And, to have my client review and approve my summary before I publish it.

This idea of using social media or broadcasting my skills is new to me. I am sure Emily presented many very good ideas for advancing one's career. I have to ponder this for a while to figure out how I can best make use of all this new information. I find Emily's talks to be very informative and stimulating.