INFP – the mediator. Sounds right. I hate conflict and would really rather everyone just got on nicely and did what was required to get the job done. I like to use my creativity and can be very flexible and lateral in my thinking. I also like a team environment where things feel fair – everyone gets some input and all ideas are given equal airtime. On the other hand, I find it hard to divorce emotion from feedback sometimes, as a consequence of the level of buy-in that I have when I’m excited about an idea.

My partner agrees, with a sigh. “Yeah, sometimes I think you don’t hear what I’ve actually said, but what you think I’ve said, because it’s like you’re already on the defensive.” Does he want an argument?! Seriously though, he’s right. Just don’t tell him.

It’s hard for me to step back from conflict at work and think ‘Meh, it’s just a job. I get paid and I go home. End of story.’ I will try anything and everything to forge a good working relationship with me colleagues. My last job is an excellent example. My team was small, just 3 of us, although the office was around 50 people. One of those people seemed to take an instant dislike to me which I found baffling as I am not aggressive or pushy in any way and therefore pretty much fly under the radar, at least initially. Over the next 12 months I tried all of the ways I could think of to warm her up. Tiny gifts, asking for lots of advice on work matters, inviting her to lunch, ignoring her, nothing seemed to work! All I got back was unpleasantness and eventually bullying. We had a confrontation eventually and even that didn’t improve things, just made those around us aware there was an issue. At that point I made an official complaint as I had run out of patience. Whether it’s objectively the right way to do things or not I would probably do the same again because I feel it aligns best with how I see the world. Oh yeah, I’m also stubborn (or determined if you prefer to re-frame things in a more positive light). So that’s fun. And useful too when things aren’t going my way. It’s rare that I will give up or say something is ‘too hard’.

I think a lot about ethical decisions. Really, they are almost all ethical decisions... Who owns the supermarket I shop at? If I go to the NZ owned one, they don’t always have everything I like. So here is a moral decision; do I buy a different brand and not enjoy it as much to keep $ onshore? Drill down some more and you get to who owns the brand that I can buy in the NZ owned supermarket? If that’s going offshore anyway then does it really matter? The answer to which supermarket I shop at changes depending on more practical matters on the day quite often. Traffic, time, how much I want Cadbury hot chocolate...

This way of thinking is probably a cultural feature of my family and friends, who generally are quite community minded and thoughtful. Hopefully this mindset will be useful in a developer role where it really is a team effort and everyone brings their own quirks and talents to the project. If not, I’ll do a typical INFP move and daydream up a better one.