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IIT

Abstract

URL Repo: <https://github.com/scottyp1989/scottyp1989.github.io.git>

Website: <https://scottyp1989.github.io/>

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Assessment Criteria

Personal information 5%



Name: Scott Percival

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Nationality: Australian

Languages Spoken: English

Highest Education: Cert IV in IT
networking (2006)

Welcome to my assessment. Born 1989 in Sydney, Australia. I was released onto this world alongside The Simpsons, Lethal weapon 2 and the release of Gameboy in Japan and North America. I have lived in Sydney my entire life, predominately in the outer Western Suburbs of Sydney in a region called the Hawkesbury. Other than my father unfortunately dying when I was 7. I would say I've had a very typical lower middle-class childhood. Back when I was a kid, we didn't have much in the way of IT as except for my brother and a couple of cousins it would not be entirely unreasonable to call my family "technophobes" suffice to say they've been slow to adapt to the times (my mother still doesn't have Facebook, how great is that). As an adult I work in IT and well now I study IT as-well, but we'll get back to that later in the assessment. Outside of work and study, I live a rather simple and peaceful life especially post covid. Like many I have a range of hobbies and interests the most notable, well at-least the most interesting to me would be Sci-fi. I love all thing Sci-Fi's I love, games, movies, shows whatever. I think it fairer to say I love all thing space in general. If I was about 10 times smarter, I might have tried becoming an Astrophysicist. On clear nights I love looking up at the night sky and just looking at the star imagining the possibilities. I think that why I love IT as-well. What draws me to theses interests so much is the vastness of them, the unknown, the possibilities. I believe in a brighter future for humanity, and I believe to get to that brighter future, we need to look to technology, and we need to look to space.

Interest In IT 10%

What is your interest in IT?

I have a diverse interest in IT across many areas but some of them include IOT, Data analytics, BI and project management. In general, I love learning how to solve problems with technology and how to use technology to solve problems. IT is heavily integrated into my life. Example I have a smart device in every room. If I am awake, I am probably using or near some form of technology. It not just integrated in my personal life but my professional life too. I work in IT. One thing that really interest me in IT is the possibilities and the innovation that comes with it. 30 years ago, they never would have thought it been possible that we do the things we are doing with AI right now. Now AI is starting to pop up everywhere, from self-driving cars to our own personal assistants like Alexa.

I think what interests me most about IT though in a practical sense is that I love helping people. IT allows me to do not just personally but professionally. I am the default go to IT support for all my friend and family. I have helped mum and her husband business start and grow in way I never would been able to if I wasn't interested in IT. Professionally have I not only helped many end users and stop them from pulling their hair out, but I have also help companies on a whole save money, protect their data and be make them more productive. IT doesn't just allow me to help it also allows me to connect with those I help in ways I never would be able to if I didn't have an interest in IT.

When did your interest in IT start?

I've had an interest in IT since my first video game which would have been something on the Atari. I think my interest in IT as a hobby started when I was about 12 and my mum brought home our first computer. My brother would use it for hours often appearing so entertained even when he wasn't playing games. It intrigued me unfortunately, my brother wasn't too forthcoming regarding how to do anything he was doing on the computer (he wanted the computer to himself). So, I had to teach myself to use it for anything. To install the games I wanted to play, to find interesting things to look up on the internet, discussion forums, chatrooms etc. With every step of teaching myself there was a new problem or hurdle to overcome which furthered my interest. I remember one time excitedly brought a PC game (Red Faction) with my hard-earned pocket money, nagging my mum for us to leave the shops as soon as I brought it so I could go home and install it and play it. Only when I got home, it wouldn't work. I spent hours trying and trying so many different things until I discovered that software and games have minimum requirements for graphics and our PC graphic card didn't meet it. Despite the disappointment that led to me eventually building my first gaming PC on a budget, which meant I had to work out what components I needed, what worked with what, how to put it all together, then installing the operation system, installing drivers, etc. The first thing I did when I had finished building the PC was to install that game I brought. Unfortunately it still didn't work, from memory I believe it was related to driver compatibility issue between graphic card and the game.

At times I think the universe is telling me something as I run into a lot of problems when using technology but no matter what issues, I am always driven to find the solution because from my perspective IT will always be two sides of the same coin, a problem and a solution and the solution is often worth challenging the problem.

By the way for those reading if curious. I did finally play that game, I think close to 10 years later installed using the same cd I brought all those years ago. It was a really rewarding feeling for about an hour then I realized I didn't like that game and probably wouldn't have even back then. You win some, you lose some.

Was there a particular event or person that sparked your interest? Outline your IT experience (if any).

I think what sparked my interest in IT at-least professionally was my computer teach Colin in TAFE. Before I had an interest in pursuing IT as a career. I had always wanted to be a lawyer, studying corporate law most likely. It was Colin who saw my passion and aptitude for IT. In his class I already knew everything he was teaching the others, If I didn't, I'd quickly learn. He even was nice enough to find harder stuff for me to learn as-well. He was the one who really encouraged me to do a course in IT and see if I was interested in it as a potential career. With his inspiration and guidance, I did a cert IV in IT networking.

15 years later I have and still work in IT with no small thanks to him. I started as basic helpdesk in a Big pond call centre and as of last week I am now a Senior Systems Administrator and project Coordinator. I have diverse range of experiences in IT from Level 1 support to procuring, designing, and maintaining the very infrastructure used to support the entire company. I've work on an ERP implementation. I have worked and now even lead several digital transformation projects such as Migrating to 365. I have even helped in a small way on a R&D project that led to our company building a device that goes down 100's of metre of borehole and analyses the pipes coating condition using lasers and cameras and allows the technician and customer to view the data in real time.

Why did you choose to come to RMIT?

To be honest, I didn't. I chose OUA based on the suggestion of my manager and some colleagues and the OUA student advisor recommended RMIT. In saying I am glad they did. It only been 2 weeks so far, but I've enjoyed my time as a student at RMIT. I think I can learn a lot from the lecturer and the tutors as-well as from other students. It seems to be a very inclusive University with a wide range of tools and services to help someone study. Which is what I needed. I am doing intro to IT to test the waters before committing to a degree. I never been an academic person as my mum loves to say "He not academic but he is not dumb" and it true to a degree. I am very kinaesthetic and visual learner and most of my previous academic experience has not catered too well for those style of learning. I think RMIT will be different. While I also don't believe in Fate or destiny it's great that I just happen to have a tutor who started as System Admin as-well before really studying anything IT related as a university level.

What do you expect to learn during your studies?

While ultimately if I commit to the degree, it be predominately about a means to acknowledge the skills and experience, I've accumulated in the past 15 years, I am hoping to learn a lot too. Through all the different things I have done, do or will do in IT, I have discovered passions professionally for data analytics, BI and project management so while I am studying now to try my hand at studying. I am hoping to learn more about those areas to help make the transition into the next stage of my career smoother. Not sure how much of this course will cover those areas but having seen the outline of this course I am still interested in learning more about ethics, cyber security and AI and even may be inspired to finally dabble in some home IOT projects.

Ideal Job 25%

The job advertisement itself. Include a link, and a snapshot of it (in case the link expires before the assignment deadline).

Ideal Job: Senior Project Manager

Link: <https://www.seek.com.au/job/57256863?type=standout#sol=9e99d2d0847dafd905eec2cd24ef91923b4ff299>

Snapshot Link: Insert link to Github Repo with PDF file

A description (in your own words) of the position, and particularly what makes this position appealing to you.

A senior project manager overseeing a large-scale project for a NSW government body specifically in the education industry. The project would see automation of a large collection of VET data to streamline grant and funding processes. This position would involve designing the project management plans to implement and complete this project.

What make this position appealing is magnitude of project. Looking at the description of the project, this is a massive undertaking by an NSW government department to modernize how their grant and funding process. This isn't just helping a business; this is helping our government help others. Potentially school and other learning organization. This would an opportunity to help 100's if not 1000's of people by successfully implementing this project. It would be the most challenging thing I ever done If I was given the opportunity and probably one of the most rewarding. The skills and experience required to be eligible for this role would mean I was successful in the career path I have chosen for myself.

A description (in your own words) of the skills, qualifications and experience required for the position.

To be a good fit for this role someone would need the following skills, qualification and experience for the position:

- A minimum of bachelor's degree in relevant field such information technology or business
- A secondary degree or tertiary qualification in a different relevant area or specifically relating to project management would probably be advantageous
- Extensive prior career experience as a project manager
- Specific experience with managing not just projects but major projects that would involve process and change management across a multitude of business areas
- Experience with implement projects specially based around technology/IT
- Extensive experience using project methodologies such as Prince/PMBok
- Experience with deliverables that focus on policy, technology and costing
- Experience with project that automated business process and systems would likely be advantageous
- Qualification directly related to Prince2/ PMBok would likely be advantageous
- Strong Leadership Skills would be advantageous for any project management role

- Ability to deliver under time restraints.
- Strong Risk management skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Strong Documentation processes
- Strong Analytical skills
- Strong Stakeholder management skills

A description (in your own words) of the skills, qualifications and experience you currently have.

Below are my current skills, qualification and experience that I think may be relevant to position

- Strong Analytical skills
- Strong problem-solving skills
- Experience being a part of projects that delivered business operational and process changes
- Experience lead digital(albeit minor by comparison) transformation projects for an organization
- Moderate stakeholder management skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Familiarity with a range of Technologies
- 15 years of experience working In IT
- Currently studying Intro to IT likely moving into a bachelor of IT or Information systems.

A plan describing how you will obtain the skills, qualifications and experience required for the position, building on those you have now. This need not be greatly detailed, (and will probably change significantly over time anyway), but try to be as specific as you can.

For starters I would start by increasing my relevant tertiary qualification by studying a Bachelor of Information Technology or more ideally a Bachelor of Information Systems (not the same thing as some universities). I would explore the possibilities of doing courses that specific dealt with project management, specifically methodologies such as Prince2/PMbok). I also continue to work on new projects at work, we have several hopefully beginning soon including implementing a BI tool into our company and rebuilding an assessment management system possible using off the shelf tools and technologies to do it. This would give me more project exposure. My current career path is presently heading toward more of a system/business analyst role and initially I think I would continue down that role. Learning how to bridge the gap between technology and business I think would be instrument in ultimately managing a large complex project. Once I get my degree I would try to get a job at a bigger company in a business analyst role that would see me hopefully be a part of and lead various projects. I'd then leverage that skills and experience into a Full time project manager role with a continue focus on ICT based projects. Continuing working my and undertaking larger and more complex projects until I had the experience needed to apply for such a role. Once I was on the business analyst/Project management path I would continually look for ways to strength my relevant skills, perhaps joining organization say as the international institute of business analysis. Expanding my skills and experience out to various project methodologies such as Agile, lean, Kanban to name a few.

Profile 20%

Myers-Briggs test

Personality type: Defender (ISFJ-T)

Traits: Introverted – 62%, Observant – 60%, Feeling – 52%, Judging – 58%, Turbulent – 71%

Role: Sentinel

Strategy: Constant Improvement

Brief description of Type:

In their unassuming, understated way, Defenders help make the world go round. Hardworking and devoted, people with this personality type feel a deep sense of responsibility to those around them. Defenders can be counted on to meet deadlines, remember birthdays and special occasions, uphold traditions, and shower their loved ones with gestures of care and support. But they rarely demand recognition for all that they do, preferring instead to operate behind the scenes.

More information: <https://www.16personalities.com/isfj-personality>

learning style test.

Results: Kinesthetics learner






Description:

If you are a kinesthetics learner, you learn by touching and doing. You understand and remember things through physical movement. You are a "hands-on" learner who prefers to touch, move, build, or draw what you learn, and you tend to learn better when some type of physical activity is involved. You need to be active and take frequent breaks, you often speak with your hands and with gestures, and you may have difficulty sitting still.

More information: <https://arden.ac.uk/what-type-learner-are-you>

Big Five Personality test:

Results:

Factor	Factor label	Raw score	Score percentile
I	Extroversion		25
II	Emotional stability		26
III	Agreeableness		45
IV	Conscientiousness		62
V	Intellect/Imagination		59

Big five personality trait scores calculated by openpsychometrics.org

More info: https://openpsychometrics.org/tests/IPIP-BFFM/results.php?r=2.4,2.4,3.7,3.6,4#_I

What do the results of these tests mean for you? (one Paragraph)

While mildly insightful, these tests don't mean a whole lot to me. Most of these tests and tests like them are akin to astrology when you read those astrology signs about a person personality/character based the descriptions are really just saying the same thing 12 different ways with just enough slight difference to convince the reader they have fundamentally different meanings. In that saying reviewing the results of those tests I identified with various elements of them. Reading over the Myers Briggs result which was probably the most comprehensive in terms of explaining what the results meant, I saw a lot of traits I identified with and for some even to the degree in which it stated how strong those traits were within me, but I also saw a lot in there that I don't necessarily agree with. For example. It said ISFJ-T people don't like to cut corners in the work environment that is just plain wrong half my career has been finding effective way to cut corners, it not about being lazy or not putting in the effort I am certainly not afraid of hard work but I am a big believer in working smart not hard.

How do you think these results may influence your behaviour in a team? (one Paragraph)

To be honest at best I think it will cause everyone in the team to reflect on what they think their traits are, which may drive changes within themselves so they can fit version of who they want to be in the team, but I don't think the results themselves will have too much bearing because they're limited. For example, out of the 3 tests I did I think the closest to any real-world accuracy and defining of who I am was the learning style test. I am very much a kinesthetics and visual learner, but I don't as I just said I am a kinesthetics learner and a visual learning and it depends on the environment and what I am learning to which style I lean on more to absorb and learn.

How should you take this into account when forming a team? (one Paragraph)

The only value these tests have are the possible self-reflection that may cause in the individual. I do not think they be considered when forming a team, but I think they may be insightful to do once a team is formed and then have that team discuss how they feel about their own results what if anything they felt about accuracy of it, if it will drive any changes or observation in themselves. Self-reflection is a vital tool in anyone self-development. At the end of the day people have layers, people are not defined by one element of themselves (or one test). These tests do not allow for the level of complexity that is every single human being. Not in a schizophrenic way but each of have multiple version and personalities of outside, based on a lot of variables, such as mood, hormones, our energy levels, how confident or not we're feeling based on something like the amount of sleep with good. Depending on those variables I can be two completely different versions of myself. A strong confident leader in a team setting or I can be a self-conscious follower all too eager to sit back and play a supporting role.

Project Ideas 30%

Overview (100 words)

- This should be a summary of what the project will be.

Name of Idea: Bangforbuck

What is it: Price Comparison Tool

With inflation rising and late-stage capitalism in full effect. Now more than ever Australian consumers need a convenient way to make better purchasing decisions to ultimately save money. Everything is becoming more expensive, even lettuce has been as high as \$10 recently.

This is where Bang for buck can help. It would be an Australian price comparison tool firstly available as a website to all Australians, for free. It would utilize a combination various data scraping technologies while also collecting data directly from the source by partnering up with Australian retailers to collect details on products such as price, stock, location and descriptions and features of and bring it all to one easy to navigate platform. The idea would be to enable users to not just compare prices and find stock local or online but eventually to even view price history, read reviews and rating by other users. Some of the most exiting future features planned for Bang for buck and what would really set it apart from its competition is it would have an app available on both android and IOS, that app would be able to scan products using QR/Barcode technology to identify the product on the app and find other nearby prices, to ensure the consumer is getting the best deal even when in store. It would also strive to have an AI supported Shopping list to help find you the best deal across specific product such as a brand and model but across the category. For example, the highest rated (or cheapest) carton of lager beer available from a store within 10-minute drive of your home.

Motivation (100) words)

- This should be a description of why the project will be interesting or useful. This may include statistics or other evidence, such as: "There service. are 1.5 billion cat owners in Australia, and so there is a huge market for an automated cat feeder. Using Raspberry Pi technology is a cheap and easily assembled solution to this problem."

My initial motivation for this idea had begun before I even started this course. Why? Because I hate paying full price on well most things, I believe everything these days is overpriced. It not just the price but all this convenience all these options the consumer has in today age has resulted in endless an stream of poor-quality products and with a lack of stricter advertising law, it hard for the average consumer to separate the good from the bad. These days I do what I can to try and save money on my purchases while also ensuring what I purchase is at-least a half decent quality (bang for buck). As a result, I often spend hours researching a product before purchasing. Example, I recently purchased a Samsung 55" Q70a considering why buying that over other brands or even paying more for the new version of that model. Once I decided on what I was buying I then spent a fair amount of time looking for the best place to buy it from. Ultimately, I brought it from an online store for about %50 of a RRP as a factory second, saving over \$400 from the next cheapest price I had found. Now in that instance would all the time I spent at-least researching where to buy from worth the money I save from not just going to a local store which had it in stock for \$400 more? Well, time is money true but it also about principle. Now I understand that in this instance that sounds a lot like a me problem

opposed to a general problem, but I doubt I'm alone in my beliefs. In-fact I know I'm not alone. There is a site called Oz bargain. An Australian forum/community dedicated to finding and sharing bargains/coupons/sales on all kind of products and services. It gets over a million visitors a month.

When I initially looked at doing this idea for my assessment project, I had contemplating ditching it. For two reasons

1. In my research on this idea, I found I wasn't alone in this idea. There are at-least a half dozen full functioning sites Australian Price comparison site already that cover the roughly the same retail categories I had envision bang for buck targeting. E.G <https://www.pricehipster.com.au> , <https://www.getprice.com.au/>
2. I wasn't even alone in this very course for this very idea. Another student in Class D had a similar idea. Her idea however restricted to a grocery price comparison tool and would utilize user input to identify the prices and stock levels of products opposed to data scrapers and working with the retailers.

However, after initially discovering the competitor being discouraged, I ended up spending a little bit of time using it and looking at how they function and what their models are and how they collect their data. When hearing about the other student doing a similar idea and how they were going to tackle their idea, I reflected upon that as-well and that when I had some inspiration. I reformed my idea and believed I have some up with a model and features that make it original and innovative compared to the current and future competitors. Not only that once I decided to go forward with my revision I found myself more motivated than before to try and get as far with this idea as I can, I believe the competition products show there is a demand for a simple, accurate and convenient price comparison tool available for Australia consumers.

Description (500 words)

- Detailed description of the features of the product or service

Bang for buck would initially be a website only price comparison tool, available to all Australian consumers for free. Utilizing multiple methods including data scraping technology and collecting data directly from partnered Australian Retailers to give Australian consumers data on 1000's of Products, including Price, Stock, Location, Details. The idea would be eventually to be partnered with all Major Australian retailer both online and brick and mortar type retailers and providing one simple to use platform for users. We don't just want to provide our users with the the cheapest price for what they're looking at the time but also show them the history of the price of the product, so they know if they're truly get a good deal or not. In additional to that we want to other them a platform to get most convenience out of their purchases by giving them an option to find the best price in their area by showing stock levels. Eventually as it user base built up and as it feature list grew it would be hoped that Bang for buck would also be a platform where it's user can find the best products for their budgets as-well with rating and review of products on that platform by other users as-well as linking and partnering with external rating sites giving our users the best bang for their buck. How would Bang for buck generate revenue if it the site is free? 1) We would utilize ad-revenue encouraging our partnered retailers to advertise using out platform 2) We would then offer cheap subscriptions service to our user base giving them the option to pay a small free to upgrade their account to avoid seeing AD firstly and secondly giving them access to special coupon codes we'd periodically arrange with our partnered retailers to get a discount at their stores/sites. 3) We would collect revenue by selling analytics and data of our platform back to retailers we've partnered up with. We would be completely transparent with our user base on this process so they can make informed decisions. Reality is to enable these partnerships with these retailers we're going to have to show them the platform has value to them by enabling them a sales channel and by selling data back to them we give them that value, while also enabling our users the Australian consumers a

platform to make truly informed purchasing decisions, while also making ourselves at-least enough revenue to continually grow and improve the platform to further drive value to our users and partners. What would be the features of Bang for buck?

- Easy to view price comparison list, no making it hard to see a list of all users to try and promote one partner over another
- Where applicable a list of Quantity of product available for a product at a local store (e.g does your closest Kmart have that cheap fan you want to buy)
- Price History, this wouldn't be available at first but we would record all prices on our platform and make it available to all users
- Price Alert, users would be able to specific price alerts on specific products
- Customized Home view as a subscribed user they would have a home page when logged in we would allow them to pick product categories (specific or broad, i.e electronics or Butter) and feed that home page with the best details out platform has found that may be relevant to that
- Our Platform will have a forum, this will allow users to discuss a range of topics one and other. We will run surveys and what not in those forums to work with our retailers to push for sales on specific products etc to drive great value to our users
- It won't stay a website we will eventually roll out an APP on both android and IOS with the goal of it eventually having additional capabilities utilizing QR/OCR technologies so that in store our users can scan and item and compare the price of the product in store with the price of the same product elsewhere and hopefully even the price of similar products elsewhere
- A Shopping List/assistant function. Eventually Using AI and Algorithms to assist our users make the best purchasing decision. A user would be able do own shopping list say basic groceries. They would input "butter, bread, milk, eggs, coffee, rice, chicken, toilet paper". Based on a criteria of preferences given by the user the system would work out best options for that user and make recommendation that they need to buy A, B, C from say their local Coles, which is 5 minute walk and need to by X, Y,Z from Woolworths. If they wish to spend the at-least save the most amount of money or buy these products from Aldi if they wish to primary save the most amount of time.

As previously stated, other price comparison tools exists. Some with similar features to what listed here. None of them currently offer everything Bang for buck would. Our last two features which would admittedly be later stages are what really currently sets bang for buck apart from the competition. The later shopping list/assistant feature be quiet original and innovative I believe. None of the current competitors also use the exact same function for collecting data, some data scrape, other partner with retailers, not both. Some using different models for income as-well. Get Price get revenue from making it possible for their retailer to launch market campaign on platform which put their product and prices Infront of the user base ahead of their competitors. We would not operate like that; we would always show the best price based on our user criteria.

Tools and Technologies (100) words)

- Describe the software, hardware and/or other equipment needed. Include any relevant open source tools as appropriate.

List of tools and technology needed

- Web server, most likely running on a lamp stack, most likely in the cloud via provider like Microsoft azure or Amazon AWS
- A content management system like wordpress to help design and build the website

- Database to collect huge amount of data our website will store most likely SQL. For users, for the data we collect from retailers and the web crawler for scrapping data from websites.
- Web scrapping script/bot designed to quickly scrap data off websites probably programmed in python
- A tool like Android studio and java to build our android app for the site(alternatively look into utilising PWA progressive web Apps)
- A tool like Xcode and use swift to build our IOS app (Look into PWA as-well)
- Communication and collaboration tools like Office 365
- API tools and technology for potentially integrating with our partner retailers to retrieve the data
- Text Editor for the code like Atom or notepad ++
- Front end development, HTML, CSS, Javascript
- Back End. PHP, asp or asp.net, java, ruby on rails, python.
- Git for development and version history control to enable our team to effectively build the application together.

Skills Required (100 words)

- List the skills are required for your project, including software that needs to be written, and special hardware (if any). How feasible will it be to find the skills, software and hardware required?

Below is a non-exhaustive list of skills needed to create Bang for Buck.

- Business development management skills to build relationship with the retailer partners
- Marketing skills to promote the website
- Front End development skills to help code the site
- Back-end development skills to help build the foundation and functionality of the site
- Project management skills to help drive the project forward and actually turn it from an idea to reality
- Potentially android development skills if we're to design a native android app for our web application
- Potentially IOS development skills if we're to design an IOS android app for our web application
- Database Administrator skills to help maintain and build our database
- Cloud implementation skills to develop
- AI Skills person

Outcome (100 words)

- If the project is successful, what will be the outcome? How will the original problem be solved? What impact will this development have?

Assuming the project success. It would solve the problem by providing a simple and accurate platform for the Australian consumer to make better purchasing decisions and ultimately save money. If it picked up by a large number of users it has the potential to drive changes within Australia retail market and encourage retailers to be more transparent about their products and the costs associated with them potentially leading to more money in Australian pockets. If the "final version" of Bang for buck was completed including the Mobile Apps and the AI powered Shopping list/assistant functionality it would provide Australian consumer a new way of being identifying the best bang for buck products for them