

3D software kicks off an ambitious career

Variety is the spice of Dan O'Sullivan's life. His new IT career is giving him plenty of diversity in both what he does and whom he works with.

Dan O'Sullivan has two IT jobs. He works for Venatrack, whose software tracks movement in football matches and provides 3D digital playback for post-match analysis. He also provides IT support for Norsk European, an international logistics company.

"I only qualified six months ago," says Dan, "and I'm already earning a great wage in a career I see myself in for the rest of my life. In my last job I was bored doing the same thing every day. Now I wake up each morning knowing I'm doing something I love."

Dan's two jobs offer a good cross section of what IT can offer. Venatrack is a small IT business which develops and sells software to improve sports analysis. Norsk is a larger, non-IT organisation which relies on IT to run efficiently.

His day-to-day work involves setting up, testing and fixing IT systems and software to ensure that complex networks function correctly. On match days, he is on hand to support clients using Venatrack software to make sure the system runs perfectly.

Whilst researching routes into IT, Dan came across Zenos, an organisation offering paid IT apprenticeships which include CompTIA A+ and Microsoft certifications.

After completing the five-month course, Dan had no trouble finding his first IT job. "There are no better certifications than CompTIA and Microsoft for getting your foot in the door. Both are internationally recognised, and having them on your CV is a massive advantage."

Dan wanted a career which involved working with people and technology and offered plenty of opportunity to advance. Six months into his career, he has no regrets.

"Strangely, people often think of IT professionals as sitting alone in a backroom. In fact, one of the best parts of the job is the people you meet. Everyone has a computer, so you have to deal with everyone from management to all the different departments, as well as with customers, who in my case are often pitchside at Premier League matches. It's a great way to see how an organisation is run and a great job for meeting people from all walks of life."

"IT professionals are also the first people to use new technology, usually well before it becomes available to consumers," says Dan. "Not many people can say they really understand 3D, but it's fascinating when you do. It's also pretty satisfying to know about something like that before everyone else does."

PERSONAL
SUCCESS STORY

DAN
O'SULLIVAN



Dan O'Sullivan enjoys working with both people and technology. CompTIA certifications helped him land jobs where he could do it all.

Dan is early in his career but has high hopes. "IT can take you anywhere. With an IT background, you can take over a company or start your own. If you work with a technology that few people in the world understand, you can sit back and wait for the job offers to roll in. Personally, I'd like to travel the world selling life-changing IT products which my company has created."

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Asked how he would advise people thinking about a career in IT, Dan says, "Everyone should think carefully about what is right for them, but if you're at all interested in technology, then you should seriously consider IT. It's interesting, varied and rewarding—and we'll always need IT professionals. Technology is changing the world, and to put it bluntly, that's where the money is."

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