



Name: **Jen Roberts**

Occupation/Position: **Project Manager/Business Analyst**

Organization: **DMT Development Systems Group**

Degree/Year of graduation: **BSc (Computer Science), 2005**

1. What did you want to be when you started University and what did you end up being?

When I started University I knew I wanted to take Computer Science and I thought that meant being a developer. As I went through my co-op terms I realized that there were other opportunities available with a degree in computer science than just being a programmer. Now I have a split role, I spend time as a project manager as well as a business analyst for multiple web development projects.

2. How did you decide what to “be”?

My mom was very encouraging when I decided to go to University. She researched a lot about what the jobs were in the highest demand and had me talk with a family friend who was just graduating from Computer Science. She told me about her co-op experiences. I thought the jobs she had all sounded very interesting and exciting.

3. What experiences helped you to succeed in your career path?

I've been extremely lucky to have worked with a lot of experienced and talented people who I have been able to learn from. It helped me grow in my career at a quicker pace. I've tried my best to take advantage of any opportunities, being able to learn from others and taking on new responsibilities, even when I've been unsure if I would be able to handle them. I've found that when I've put in effort to show that I want to move forward and expressed my goals, others have always been willing to help along the way.

4. What advice do you have for graduates for their first year on the job?

Learn as much as you can, don't be afraid to ask questions, and offer assistance to co-workers. One of the best questions you can ask when learning about new tasks is "Why?" It will help you to understand the history and that can be very helpful.

5. How do you prepare for an interview?

One of the most important ways to prepare is to do your research. Check out the company website or look for articles. It is usually pretty easy to find information online, so it is inexcusable to not have some background on the company.

Go through practice interview questions (many can be found online). Lots of companies will ask behavioral questions, for example "Tell us about a time when you showed good leadership skills". Think about different situations you have been in that you can use for these types of questions.

Have a good understanding of what interests you about the job and why you would be a good fit. If they don't ask you what interests you about the job, then you should indicate that at the end of the interview.

Have some questions prepared that you can ask the interviewer. They will ask if you have any questions and it is a good way to show interest in the position. Questions can be found online i.e., how long have you worked for the company, what do you like best/least about the company, etc. Try not to ask about salary on the first interview.

6. Did you ever feel like you weren't going to get a job?

A few times, it's a rough feeling at the time but in the end it has always worked out.

7. What is the best job search advice you've ever received? What job search advice would you give to new grads?

Take extra time to write specific cover letters for the jobs you are applying for. Often when you have just graduated there will be little difference between your resume and other

recent graduates. It is your cover letter that will allow you to stand out and make or break getting an interview.

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