Creating an IT Strategy for a Dispersed Organization

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ABSTRACT

This poster embodies the internship experience, which Jonathan Kerr completed at Workforce Development to finalise the Bachelor of Computing Systems (BCS) at the Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT). It contains an organisational overview, internship details, activities and tasks completed, and details behind the mini-project's process.

Keywords: IT Education, Co-operative Learning

1. INTRODUCTION

Workforce Development is a Private Training Establishment (PTE) whose core purpose is to provide innovative education and training, professional services, support and resources. Workforce Development has seven training centres across the north island, and operates in 16 prisons within New Zealand. Therefore, this is a geographically dispersed organization, in an economy that is influenced by IT (Erturk & Fail, 2013) that caters to the demographics and needs of Hawke's Bay and New Zealand's current continuing adult education population.

Jonathan was offered the opportunity to formulate and write Workforce Development's IT Strategy. This project was the primary objective for the internship; several other tasks were completed involving research and development, computer configurations, IT asset stock-taking, and many others.
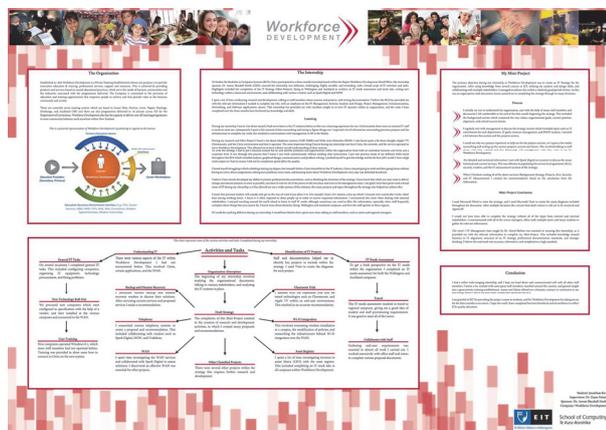

Figure 1. Compressed screenshot of the actual poster.

2. THE MAIN TASKS

Using knowledge gained from various documents, vendors, and end-users, Jonathan completed the first draft of the IT Strategy half way through the internship. Then, Aaron Shackell-Smith, the CEO, reviewed the IT Strategy and provided his input. The first major iteration of the strategy was completed within the week. The IT Strategy underwent a number of additional reviews prior to being signed off.

During the review period of the IT Strategy there was opportunity complete other work. Research and development for WAN, Telephony, Backup and Disaster Recovery was carried out. These activities involved meeting with external stakeholders such as Spark Digital, NOW, and Vodafone. Jonathan also had the unique opportunity to fly to Auckland and Wellington campuses to complete an IT needs assessment and stock take.

3. CONCLUSION

Jonathan was involved in an educational internship exploring various areas of IT that the BCS degree touched upon but did not apply in-depth. The mini-project was professional, accurate, and reflected EIT's quality education. Because of these and other characteristics, this was a successful internship (Maertz, Stoeberl, & Marks, 2014), which also resulted in the CEO offering employment to Jonathan as an IT Support Officer.

4. REFERENCES

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