

ICT Executive Profile

Based on feedback from the annual survey around having access to more senior women as role models, each month we have an executive profile compiled from 7 questions posed to key executive women in the ICT industry

Jennine Beekhuyzen

CEO Adriot Research



What is your current role and what is your scope?

I'm CEO of my own consulting company Adroit Research where I teach people how to use software for research. I deal mostly with academics and doctoral students and I love the variety and challenge of research. I teach first year Information Technology at Griffith University in Brisbane and I am disappointed constantly by the lack of females in my class. Therefore I set up the non-profit Tech Girls Movement to encourage schoolgirls to consider a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). My scope is broad!

What attracted you to a career in ICT?

I was attracted to the idea that my job would always change as new technology emerges, and that there would always be something new to learn. I also love playing with tech.

Tell us about the highpoints and lowpoints of your career?

Highpoints and lowpoints sometimes both occur in the same day! Highpoints are knowing and actually seeing the difference I make to both my university students that I teach and also to schoolgirls who now have more choices in life because they have considered a technology career. Working for yourself can be very lonely, so at times this is a low point.

What does work life balance mean to you?

It means being happy with how you spend each day. For me, some times in the year are busier than others and require more travel. I do what I have to but then balance it out in the quieter months and appreciate the time out when I have it. I need to be better at creating time out for myself though.

What attracted and kept you in the ICT industry throughout your career?

Every day is different. I like the variety, the challenges, and the opportunities it gives me to work with who I want, when and where I want, and on what interesting projects I want.

What ambitions personal or professional do you still want to achieve?

To run a sustainable business where I get to continue to do interesting research and consulting work. Personally, there are many more countries I need to visit!

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What's the one piece of advice you'd give to yourself starting out on your career?

Life is not fair and important achievements do not come easily. Work hard, follow your passion but don't take life too seriously.

NB: As appeared on FITT e-newsletter November 2014 and also features on the website.

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