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I started my career many years ago in the State Service as a data processing officer and I now work in ICT. At that time, ICT was fairly immature and there weren't a lot of formal training courses widely available. It was really great to start off on the ground floor and learn about IT in a fairly unstructured but demand-driven way.

Early in my career, I had a supervisor who took me under his wing. One day, he opened up the communications cupboard on the floor, and I can remember standing there looking at it with him. He was talking me through a solution to a problem. I was looking at all the network equipment and cabling and I thought, 'This is what I want to do. This is great!' It was a kind of lightning bolt moment for me. From there, I went on and completed various Industry Certifications and courses and have been learning ever since.

As a child I used to play around with old radios and try and figure out what made them work and how to repair them. I've always had an interest in technology and a fairly inquiring mind. I had that desire to find out more about Information Technology, specifically computer networks—to demystify them in a way. That's the sort of stuff that I enjoy doing—it's really rewarding.

A day in my job is certainly challenging and rewarding. In the background of every day, you have standard helpdesk jobs. Overlaid with larger projects you work on or lead, most recently refreshing the communications infrastructure in our Data Centres. So you could be involved in a number of projects, plus background tasks and you're also helping other staff who might walk up and seek assistance with something. It's a really diverse and interesting combination of things.

One of the biggest challenges is juggling all those different priorities in what can sometimes be a stressful and time-pressured environment. But conversely that's also the best part of my job – it's never boring. It can be challenging and you spend time out of your comfort zone. There's lots of curve balls. It's really interesting and it's great to be able to have the opportunity to take the lead on various things.

Often we have jobs advertised and I find it disappointing to discover that no women have applied. I often wonder how we change that. I did my training on the job and have been supported by my workplace. To any women thinking of pursuing a career in ICT I would say give it a go and challenge yourself, don't underestimate what you can bring to the workplace.

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