



Matt Smith
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Product Development Manager
Hindin Communications

Matt's just six years into his ICT career and already a product development manager – proof that in this industry you can really go places fast!

Matt was originally planning to be an accountant, but with an interest in computers he saw the exciting future ICT offered and embarked on a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Information Systems at the University of Canterbury.

On completion of his degree, Matt secured a full-time software development position at Hindin (where he had been working part time) and he's progressively worked his way up the ranks since. This success certainly hasn't gone unnoticed, Matt was nominated for Young Achiever of the Year at the 2002 and the 2005 New Zealand HiTech Awards.

In his current position, Matt manages a team of software developers, which involves combining people management with software development. "I have to quality review work and keep in touch with modern techniques as well as help determine the direction of our product – which is exciting."

Matt points out that anyone who perceives the industry as 'nerdy' is completely wrong. "Although programming is technical, you have the ability to be very creative and design different solutions, which is very rewarding."

Matt can see that there are huge opportunities for ICT companies in the in the future and he knows that the experience he is gaining as a product development manager will prove invaluable when it comes to establishing his own business. "In an industry that's all about innovation and creativity, there is so much potential for success."

Matt's advice to others who are keen to get into ICT is to not think of it as simply creating widgets, it's all about problem solving and the technology's just a means to doing that.