



Mindy Marshall
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Software Programmer
Jade Software Corporation

After Mindy is an exceptionally talented software developer who says the work she does couldn't be further from the 'geek' stereotype.

After studying sciences, English and maths at high school, Mindy couldn't decide between a career in medicine or law – and it wasn't until two years into her law degree that her eyes were opened to a fantastic future in computer science. Mindy's friends who were doing computer science were waxing lyrical about it and so in her second year of law, she acted on their positive reports and concurrently studied some computer science papers. "I liked it so much more. It was great to actually be building things – you got a definite sense of achievement."

Mindy went on to gain First Class Honours in a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science at Canterbury University and by the end of it, had a good idea of what she wanted to do next – work on end user applications. For Mindy, getting a job in that area was easy. "I found out Jade was hiring through a lecturer, so I applied and got the job straight away."

In her two years at Jade, Mindy's enjoyed working with a great team in what she describes as a very rewarding role. "It's great to be creating something, you produce an end product and get to work on interesting and complex problems. And it's even better when you get feedback from end users."

In her first year, Mindy was lucky enough to travel to the UK for two weeks to visit clients and see how they use Jade software. This year, Jade is supporting her desire to travel and she's off to the UK again – this time she'll be working for Jade while on her O.E. It seems that opportunities like this are not rare in Canterbury's ICT industry. "Plenty of Christchurch ICT companies have international clients, so I'd imagine that wherever you work, there's opportunity for travel."

With such an exciting career and a promising future, it's not surprising that Mindy's quick to encourage others to get into ICT. "A lot of people have the wrong idea. The geeky stereotype's not true at all, everyone doesn't do the same thing, there's a huge variety in jobs – it's just a case of figuring out what you want to do!"