

# Bring IT On News

8 March, 2019

## International Women's Day

### Sinead Dillon - Principal Business Consultant - Fujitsu

#### Tell us a bit about your current job role?

As a principal business consultant my role is focused on addressing customers' needs, the role of digital in the business and, how our solutions can adapt to fit customer requirements across Northern Ireland, as well as looking at how new technology and innovative products can help to deliver services.

#### What was your first job?

My first job after graduation was working for the Kerry Group as a trainee management accountant. Here, I was assigned to work with Grove Farm Turkeys in Smithboro, Co Monaghan and was responsible for preparing monthly accounts and financial reports.

#### How did you get to where you are now from school?

Although I always had a keen interest in computing, after school I was initially drawn towards a career in business or banking. I completed an accountancy degree at Ulster University and then completed the chartered management accountancy qualifications (CIMA) while working with the Kerry Group. While working as a Management Accountant, I enjoyed automating processes and the IT systems. I decided to transition into IT and moved into a role that combined accounting with financial systems support. To support this move and the practical on-the-job experience, I returned to college and completed a Master's degree in Computing and Information Systems. Learning is key in my role and you have to continue being interested in this ever changing sector.

#### What was your favourite subject at school?

At school I enjoyed commerce which included business studies and accounting. The teacher made the subject interesting and started me on my journey into a career in business.

#### What has been your favourite job to date and why?

While at school, I worked in a shop and enjoyed meeting customers, working in teams, helping, advising and dealing with enquiries. This helped me develop skills I still use today such as communication, problem solving, team working and customer service.



#### What has been your least favourite job to date and why?

When I started working as a trainee accountant one of my least favourite tasks was the annual audit in the cold store at 5.00am

#### Best piece of advice you have received?

*'Believe in your strengths, work on your weaknesses, and demonstrate your capabilities to colleagues and managers.'*

#### What are your top tips for getting into the IT industry?

There are so many different pathways to get into the IT industry leading to an exciting career with a lot of opportunities and a wide variety of roles. It's not all about coding – that's just one area – and there's a variety of roles which can suit individual personal tastes and preferences.

The skills you obtain now, at school and at college or university, will be invaluable in your career: problem solving, creativity, innovation. Bring all that into the IT world and you'll have a very exciting career in a sector that is continually developing and adapting.

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*From left - Emer Maguire, Ruth McGuinness (PWC), Sinead Dillon (Fujitsu), Julie McGrath (Graffiti Recruitment) in attendance at the Bring IT On - Women in Tech event in December 2019, helping inspire and teach NI High school students about IT careers and pathways*

**IT is such a fast moving industry, are there any jobs/ roles that don't exist now that you are excited to see in the future?**

Digital transformation is changing the world of work through emerging technologies such as AI, cloud, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT) automation and robotics.

These emerging technologies will transform the world of work and create new roles and opportunities. Artificial Intelligence holds the potential to bring the biggest change in the coming decades, but with it will come a host of technological, ethical and business questions that need the best creative and curious minds to unravel and overcome.

Having the potential of your very own personal digital assistant at home and at work will be fascinating. In the future, the digital assistant will probably complete the repetitive tasks and individuals will have more time for creativity and problem solving in their roles. The opportunities from this human-machine partnership will be amazing.

**Who is your role model and why?**

Katherine Johnson. Despite many challenges, her skills helped to send people into space. Even better, she did all her calculations by hand.

**What would you say to a young female who is contemplating pursuing a career in IT?**

A career in IT is exciting and rewarding. As you go through different roles, you will learn a lot of new skills and adapt to challenges. Skills are transferable, so be mindful that today's job will help you in a different one tomorrow and prepare you for jobs of the future. Life-long learning is key. You need to keep interested and keep active in the ever-changing IT sector.

If you have a flair for IT, are a people person, can be adaptable, and bring your own personality and curiosity to the job, you will have a career that will be challenging and worthwhile.