BEN - EMBEDDED ENGINEER

Ben works at Matrix as an Embedded Engineer and has been with the company for around 15 years.

What did you do before coming here and what led you to Matrix?

As part of my Masters course we used some of the Matrix E-blocks kit in the labs and so in my spare time I wrote a script that allowed the kit to be simulated on a computer allowing everyone on the course to complete coursework away from the lab. After that, the course instructor introduced me to John the Owner and MD at the time and the rest is history.

What do you enjoy most about working at Matrix?

The job is very varied. You are given high level tasks to do but it is really up to you as to how you go about fulfilling the role and you can contribute to the specification of the role to both suit your strengths and build on your weaknesses. Being an educational company you can really get to the core of the problems that scientists and engineers encounter and providing a useful solution to these problems can be very rewarding.

What does a typical day look like for you?

Coding in various languages, designing electronic circuits and PCBs, hand soldering, troubleshooting, advising production, sourcing components, dealing with customers and their requirements, curriculum content, keeping up to date with tech, juggling a to do list.

What are the biggest challenges you face working here?

A big challenge is knowing what to do next, with many things going on it can be hard to focus on a single thing at a time. What's nice is not always chasing the biggest sale or profit but really providing a good solution to customers to solve their specific unique problems in a way that is simple for them to understand and build on.

What qualifications do you have?

BTEC in Electronics and Telecomms, BSc Cybernetics, MSc Embedded Systems.

What piece of advice would you give to your younger self?

I did various programming and electronics jobs before but some were really not more than a repetitive monotonous drone role. My advice would be to not give up and not settle for a role that doesn't fulfil and constantly test your skills. After my degree I left with a lot of debt and after a whole summer of applying for jobs I had nothing to show for it. The best thing I did was manage to find a funded Masters course to allow me to continue furthering my education and things naturally led on from there.

MATRIX