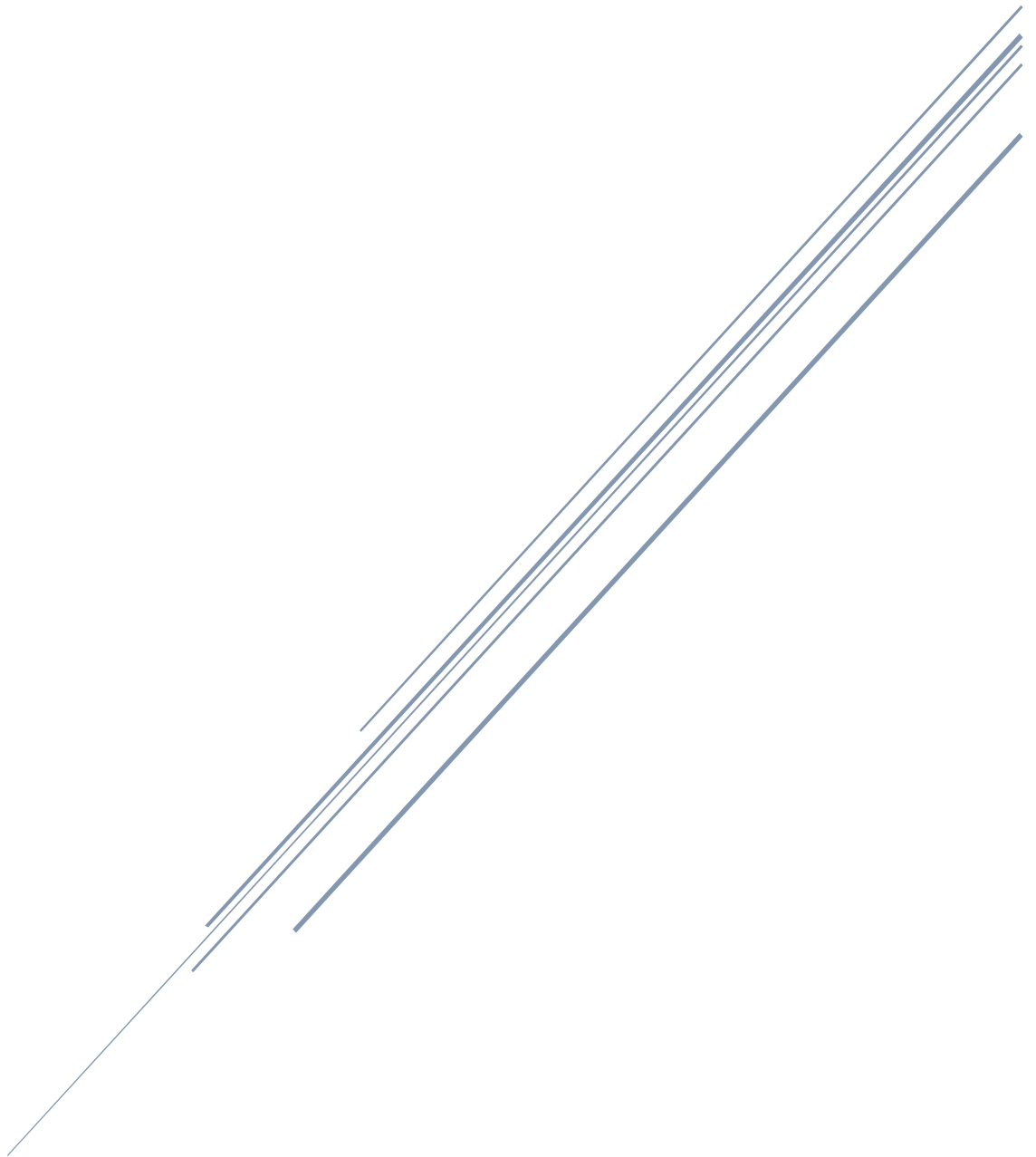


ACADEMIC AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

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Personal overview

My name is Vladimir Blagoev. I'm a 29 years old Bulgarian, currently studying BSc Cloud Computing at University of Wales Trinity Saint David and this is my story.

My academic journey started at the age of 7 in Bulgaria (Sofia) where I went to school for 2 years. After that I moved to Ukraine (Kiev) for 2 years where I learnt Russian. Came back to Bulgaria for 3 years where I continued to practice my Russian. Then I had to move to Kazakhstan (Almaty) for 1 year where I recovered my lost Russian skills and started learning English with a private tutor. And finally went back to Sofia for the last 4 years of my high school where I graduated First English Language High School. It was around this time when I became really interested in computers in general. I played video games, started learning programming languages like C#, JavaScript, HTML and CSS at Telerik Academy for 1 year, sadly I failed to graduate, but I gained a lot of useful skills like how to write a good code and quality assurance, so I count that as a success.

After my academic journey ended I started working as a Database Operator for Tip Top Courier AD for almost 7 years where after the first year I became the night shift manager. I gained a lot of useful skills like working with databases, managing my own time, prioritizing, mentoring, managing other people's time and passive-aggressively arguing with my superiors using the work email. Achievements that I'd like to take credit for are creating a whole new work schedule to include the newly formed night shift (with the help of my superior at that time Tanya Dzhamova) as well as optimising the night shift schedule to achieve a smooth working process for everyone and to ensure that everything is done on time with as few mistakes as possible. I also personally trained and mentored a colleague who, when I left, became the next night shift manager.

I quit my job because I moved to Austria (Vienna) for 1 year where I studied German. I couldn't find a job due to the language barrier, but I was fixing laptops as a hobby and relied on the generosity of others. Then my family decided to move to London where I am currently.



Vladimir on a horse
Kazakhstan (2005)



Vladimir working hard
Sofia (2017)



Vladimir and his sister
Vienna (2018)

Skills Evaluation

In my opinion there are a few key skills needed for a successful higher education. Of course different people have different methods of learning, but the following skills work well for me so I am going to focus on them.

The ability to conduct a research is probably the most important as it is the primary way of learning. Research is not a skill on its own but rather a combination of skills like finding information, using past experience and knowledge to determine if the information is relevant to the subject, assessing and understanding the information and finally producing a result using the newly gained knowledge.

Passion, motivation and concentration are probably the next most important personal skills. Without any interest in a subject one can never focus on the task before him.

Creativity, problem solving and implementation. Of course gaining the knowledge alone is not enough. We learn with the intent of achieving results. The abilities to create a piece of work on your own or with while working with others, to find a solution to a problem, to use the gained knowledge in practice and etc. are essential for an academic success.

As for employability and career skills based on my experience almost all of the skills needed for higher education are also applicable in a work environment. Learning quickly on the spot and finding a solution is a very helpful skill, especially in the constantly evolving and vast area of computer science. Showing interest in your field and constantly refreshing and expanding your knowledge is key for staying on top. Of course in the highly competitive market today just the skills mentioned above are not enough a successful career. There are many other helpful skills to succeed on the job market.

Presentation is the first and most important of them. To start a job you must first be hired and for that you need to present yourself well. First, the CV, this is where a lot of people struggle. It's not an easy task to convince someone to choose you over hundreds of other candidates with just a piece of paper. Creativity, good grammar and professional styling help a lot in that regard. Next comes the interview, meeting a stranger face to face and convincing them to work with you for the foreseeable future requires looking professionally, proper body language, good manners and the ability to impress and catch the attention of someone are essential for a successful interview.

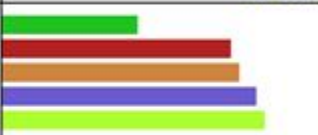
After we get a job we will have to work either in a team or solo so one of two skills will be essential here. The ability to work independently requires a sense of responsibility and proper time management skills to assure meeting deadlines and getting positive feedback. In software development however working in a team is much more common, so this skill is crucial to have. It largely depends on working independently on a part of project while taking the work of others into consideration, having trust in your teammates that they are going to do their part properly and assuring that everything works as intended in order to deliver a high quality product. Working in a team almost always involves using some kind of a standard or a set of guidelines.

While on the job some social and personality skills are very helpful. The ability to make friends, broad knowledge of different common topics of conversation, helping colleagues, doing small favours and being a nice person in general goes a long way when trying to make friends.

Personality Test

Results summary

Your results from the IPIP Big Five Factor Markers are in the table below. The table contains a raw score and also a percentile, what percent of other people who have taken this test that you score higher than.

Factor	Factor label	Raw score	Score percentile
I	Extroversion		33
II	Emotional stability		81
III	Agreeableness		51
IV	Conscientiousness		80
V	Intellect/Imagination		65

Big five personality trait scores calculated by openpsychometrics.org

Trait descriptions

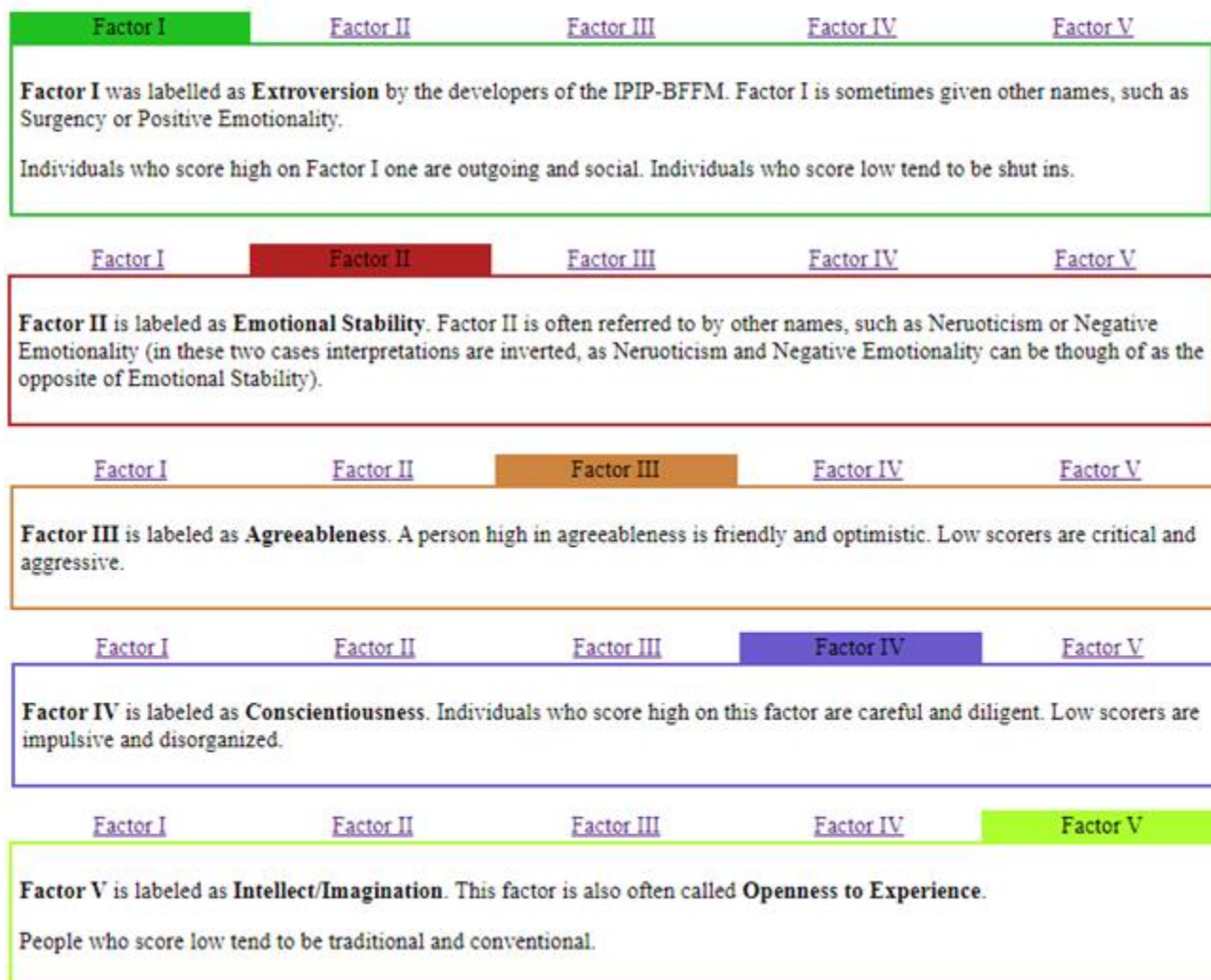


Figure 1. Personality Evaluation. Available online at <https://openpsychometrics.org/tests/IPIP-BFFM/>

Action Plan

My short term goals include improving my computer skills like software development and networking. My goal right now is getting better at programming in general and freshen up my knowledge of C# to prepare for the next semester. I'd also like to learn Java in the near future and possibly develop an Android application using Java. While I might be good at programming I struggle at networking. I'd like to improve a lot in that direction and this is going to be my main focus for the next couple of months.

As for my plans for the future in a long term perspective I'd like to graduate from University of Wales Trinity Saint David first, get my bachelor's degree in Cloud Computing and find a job as either Software Developer or a System Administrator. A few years ago when Facebook games were popular I collaborated with my sister and we made a project for a game named 'Witchcraft'. Nothing came out of it but I still have the project on my laptop and now I have a vision on how to make it into an Android game and I'd like to do that as a side project in the future.

I'm going to use 'Witchcraft' as an example, because to do a project like this it requires a lot of different skills and I'd like to acquire all of them. The personality test that I did for this assignment confirmed something already knew about myself. I am a little bit introverted and I rarely make new friends and friends are important for succeeding in life. I am not an art person, even though I can do the coding for the game, I cannot draw the assets for it. I also don't have the financial backup to hire someone to do the art for the game, so I'm going to need to find and befriend someone who can do this for me and partner with them. Databases and cloud technology will also be necessary for developing a game like this so learning those is also on the bucket list for the future.

Action Plan for Academic, Personal and Professional Skills to improve in 2020				
Skill	Priority	Start	End	Description
Making new friends	Medium	Jan-20		Go out and make new friends
Become proactive	High	Jan-20		Stop procrastinating and just do it
Java	High	Jan-20	Aug-20	Learn Java
Networking	High	Jan-20	Aug-20	Learn Networking
Databases and Cloud	Medium	Dec-20	Feb-21	Learn databases and how to implement them in an application

Action plan table for year 2020

Application

Looking after your data

Nobody likes to lose their work this is why I like to keep data backed up at all times. You've probably guessed it by now but I do a lot of programming in my free time and some student assignments for the university. To back up my coding exercises I use the popular website "GitHub". You can find some of my work at <https://github.com/kuchigyz/>. For everything else I use cloud storage like OneDrive and Google Drive. For Christmas I got from my sister a very nice KEXIN USB C Memory Stick 32GB USB3.0 Type C that can connect to any PC or laptop as well as any phone or tablet with a USB Type C.



Figure 2. 32 GB Memory Stick with USB Type C



Figure 3. Keystone feature of Asus ROG Strix.

In the near future I also plan on buying a new laptop Asus ROG Strix with 1TB HDD and 1TB SSD which will give me access to 2 hard drives so I can use the faster SSD and backup my data on the more reliable HDD. In addition the laptop comes with a new feature called 'Keystone' which according to Asus.com [1] unlocks access to a secret Shadow Drive for covert private storage.

One of the disaster scenario that can corrupt my data that I can think of is a virus and to be honest I am quite vulnerable to this threat as I never use an antivirus on my laptops. In my opinion for an experienced user an antivirus software is a waste of resources. In case of such a disaster a quick reinstall of the windows fixes the problem and as explained previously my sensible data is already backed up. Another disaster could be accidentally formatting the wrong partition when reinstalling the OS, but even then there is a software that can restore data. Third disaster can be physical damage to a hard drive which is the worst option because it's unavoidable and the data in most cases is unrecoverable or very expensive to recover. In such a case the only hope is the lost data was backed up beforehand.

Perhaps the biggest threat to our data is a virus type known as Ransomware which infects the user's system and encrypts its files with an encryption key making the files inaccessible. In order to restore the files the user is given instructions on how to pay the attacker a ransom to get the decryption key. [2] Csoonline.com. An example of a ransomware is the Trojan horse named Cryptowall which according to Symantec.com [3] is a virus that encrypts files on a computer. It then asks the user to pay a ransom for decryption of the files. The infection typically occurs by spam emails, exploit kits or compromised webpages.

Time management and organization

At today's age unless your parents can support you financially you have to work and study at the same time which can be pretty difficult without proper time management and organizational skills and with so many distractions this is not always so easy. I experienced this first hand when I started writing this assignment. With eight hours of sleep, ten hours of work (including travel time) and one hour for bodily functions like food, hygiene and waking up I am left with five hours of free time. In order to increase my productivity I decided to cut down my gaming and Netflix time to a minimum and only use those activities to clear my mind when I get stuck on a task. This leaves me with a solid four hours to focus on my studies.

Usual daily schedule			
Activity	Start	End	Description
Sleep	08:00	16:00	
Waking up	16:00	17:00	Wake up, have coffee, breakfast, shower
Relax	17:00	22:00	Play games with friends or watch youtube / netflix
Go to work	22:00	23:00	Travel to work
Work	23:00	07:00	
Go home	07:00	08:00	Travel home
Usual daily schedule while in session			
Activity	Start	End	Description
Sleep	08:00	16:00	
Waking up	16:00	17:00	Wake up, have coffee, breakfast, shower
Study	17:00	19:00	Study for the exams
Break	19:00	20:00	Play games with friends or watch youtube / netflix
Study	20:00	22:00	Study for the exams
Go to work	22:00	23:00	Travel to work
Work	23:00	07:00	
Go home	07:00	08:00	Travel home

Daily schedule time table

As seen from the time table above my time management skills are nonexistence which is the main reason for the lack of my productivity. I hear a lot of my colleagues from the university commenting on how they can learn all of the things that we study in class at home. I agree, explanation might not always be clear, not everyone understands from the first time and there are much better sources to learn from in internet. But my question is "Are you going to study at home if not for the university?". For me the answer is "no". In my opinion this is the role of the higher education, not to teach us a subject, but rather teach us how to get the information ourselves, how to do a proper research and guide us to what topics to learn.

Conclusion & Evaluation

In conclusion for a successful higher education ability to perform a research is the most significant academic skill as it is the primary learning process. The most important personality trait is passion because without any interest in a subject, we can never concentrate on the task before us. Creativity and problem solving skills are next are necessary to use the gained knowledge in a real world scenario and achieve results. Social skills like making friends and personality traits like interesting hobbies, kindness and being reliable are also very helpful in a work or study environment.

Although I consider myself an intelligent, but slightly introverted person my greatest downfall is laziness and procrastination. Those two personality traits hinder my productivity like none other. It's important that we stop once in a while think about what are our strong traits and what is stopping us to achieve our life goals. Writing this assessment gave me a clear vision on what is wrong and why am I not achieving anything. Considering the conclusion from this report in the future I'd like to be more proactive and not so distracted with gaming and focus more on learning new things.

VLADIMIR BLAGOEV

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Customer-oriented person with history of leading high-performance teams to meet or exceed objectives. Dedicated and hardworking with internal drive to deliver excellence. Tactical team builder with strong background in training and team development. Tech-savvy person skilled at developing complex solutions and possessing strong creative thinking skills, high energy and integrity. Fluent in English, Russian and Bulgarian.

WORK HISTORY

F & B Assistant , 07/2018 to Current

Jury's Inn - London

- Delivered an exceptional level of service to each customer by listening to concerns and answering questions.
- Adeptly handled inbound calls, generating £38000 in sales revenue annually.
- Monitored multiple databases to keep track of all company inventory.

Database Operator / Night Shift Manager, 03/2011 to 06/2017

Tip Top Courier - Sofia

- Trained and mentored new employees to maximise team performance.
- Managed a small team employees, overseeing the hiring, training, and professional growth of employees.
- Monitored and supported a database to keep track of all incoming and outgoing customer parcels.

Game Tester, 06/2009 to 12/2010

Palms - Sofia, Bulgaria

- Supported Software Development team in improving operations and resolving issues to deliver top-notch gambling games.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Cloud Computing, 2022

University Of Wales Trinity Saint David - London

Software Development, 2013

Telerik Academy - Sofia

Intensive one year course covering:

C#, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Quality Assurance

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SKILLS

Organisational / managerial skills

- Experience in mentoring and leadership

Job-related Skills

- Fast learner
- Well organized
- Attention to detail
- Teamplayer

COMPUTER SKILLS

- C#
- Python
- JavaScript
- HTML
- CSS
- Setup and maintain networks
- Troubleshooting software and hardware issues

HOBBIES

- Cooking / Experimenting in the kitchen
- Playing billiards, table tennis or card games with friends

References

[1] Asus.com (2019) test available [Online] at <https://uk.store.asus.com/notebooks/gaming-series/asus-rog-strix-hero-g731gv-ev025t-17-3-full-hd-144hz-gaming-laptop-intel-i7-9750h-16gb-ram-512gb-pci-e-ssd-1tb-sshd-nvidia-geforce-rtx-2060-6gb.html>

[2] Csoonline.com (2019) article available [Online] at <https://www.csoonline.com/article/3236183/what-is-ransomware-how-it-works-and-how-to-remove-it.html>

[3] Symantec.com (2019) article available [Online] at <https://www.symantec.com/security-center/writeup/2014-061923-2824-99>

Figure 1. Personality test available [Online] at <https://openpsychometrics.org/tests/IPIP-BFFM/>

Figure 2. Picture of the USB Type C Memory Stick available [Online] at https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07KGZHX8N/ref=twister_B0833PQRPP?_encoding=UTF8&psc=1

Figure 3. Picture of the 'Keystone' feature of the new Asus gaming laptops available [Online] at <https://www.notebookcheck.net/Asus-ROG-Strix-Scar-III-and-Hero-III-feature-the-Core-i9-9980H-and-NVIDIA-RTX-2070-along-with-an-exclusive-ROG-Keystone-secret-drive.418806.0.html>