**Could you spare an hour to support the next generation of software developers?**

You are probably aware of the new Digital T Levels, which provide a new vocational education route for 16 - 18 year olds interested in pursuing a digital career.  This is a real opportunity to attract many more young people into the industry.  The first T Level, in software development and testing, started this month.

We are developing a bank of resources for providers and their students to give them insight into the industry and a real understanding of employer expectations.

We are looking for employers and those working in IT who would be prepared to offer a bit of time to share their experience with these students.

There a lots of different ways to engage and it can take as little as an hour of your time.

**You could:**

* be interviewed virtually for a short article or video, which could be showing how your organisation approaches a particular area of development such as testing or applies a methodology such as Agile
* taking part in focused discussion on one of the following topics, intended to show how things are done in the real world and any hints and tips:
	+ Good coding techniques – what does that mean to your organisation?
	+ How do you choose a development methodology?
	+ How do you manage client/stakeholder relationships?
	+ What are your top 10 tips for good software development project management?
	+ What is your organisation’s approach to software testing?
* talking through what you look for in new recruits or would expect from a student on an industry placement
* provide a case study of someone working in software development and testing
* set a competition for the students
* set a project, for example a programming task, a testing task or a design task (or all three) – we are trying to pull together a range of examples in different contexts.  Even if you just have some ideas that we can use, it would be appreciated.

**Just as importantly – possibly even more so – if there is something that you feel learners should know, but probably would not be taught it, let us know!**

If you think that you, or a colleague, would be interested in getting involved, we would love to talk to you.

Please contact me if you would like to have an exploratory discussion.

**Best wishes**

**Bernie Fishpool**

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