

My 9to5

Jason Connolly, director at Next Generation IT

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Jason Connolly joined NGIT in Guernsey 2010 as one of three director/owners of the full service IT business. NGIT recently celebrated its 10th birthday and is a locally-owned, small but growing business (with 20 staff) with the aim of providing a friendly and consistently high level of service to its growing client base.

How do you kick start the day?

The alarm wakes the Connolly family at 6.30am, and after the morning rush to get ready, feed the dog, chickens, stick insects and family, I either drop the children at school or cycle into work (surprisingly it takes around the same time.)

What is your first task of the day?

I usually arrive in the office just after 8am and check emails while waiting for the kettle to boil. We kick off most days with an early planning meeting to organise the work for the day. We provide resilient and reliable IT systems onsite and hosted cloud services, and while some of our work can be planned, a lot is unexpected and so we need to react quickly, often fixing issues remotely or going to site as required. We can be more effective by working on-site and can resolve many issues in one go and provide a better service. With a growing client base, mornings are usually a busy time.

Coffee or tea?

I drink tea most of the day, but around 10am I am ready for a coffee from our new bean-to-cup machine which makes fantastic coffee and gives me a mid-morning boost.

Let's do lunch?

I normally eat a sandwich at my desk for lunch and I am quite adept at one-handed typing while trying not to spill sandwich filling on my keyboard.

Walk the floor or desk-bound?

I mostly work from my desk as most day-to-day communication with our clients is now via email, but I do also go out to meet clients each day. It is important to maintain a good relationship with our clients and so I like to meet them regularly and as our office is in Town, I enjoy walking to meetings. Our work is collaborative so we have an open plan office which helps effective communication. I really enjoy the variety of my job and the different people I work with.

Clear desk policy?

I do like to clear my desk (and email inbox) each day before I leave. It is usually so busy in the day with clients and suppliers calling and emailing, I am in reacting mode most of the day. Fortunately the office starts to get quieter around 4.30pm and I can then get on with the work I planned for the day. Most days I finish around 6.30pm, and it's amazing what you can achieve in a couple of hours without interruption.

Last to leave?

I am normally last to leave and lock up, missing the rush hour. I would rather spend the time productively working than sitting in traffic.

Night shift?

We support clients with global operations and provide 24x7 support cover. In fact for most of our projects, migrations, office moves, planned maintenance and upgrades it is essential they happen out of office hours. So when many businesses go home, we are often just starting for the weekend. The job is not just 9-5, it is a way of life. So although I work many evenings and weekends, it does mean that I can take time off for a family emergency, going to the children's Christmas concert, or going windsurfing if it's stormy.