

ELBA

A Day in the life of...



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MY ALARM GOES OFF...

I typically wake up around 5:00 or 5:30 and take my time to fully emerge from my sleep. Quickly warm up and then exercise, i.e. anything that would get me to break into a good sweat or challenge my endurance (somehow) is a win. After that, I use the Headspace app to meditate for 10 minutes and I write my journal in my '6-Minutes a day diary' (found it on Amazon). Then I take a warm/icy cold shower. I typically have cereals with fruits for breakfast, brush my teeth, get dressed and jump into the DLR for work.

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

I am part of a Technology team and our main function is to work closely with the rest of the business to design better processes and improve our systems to make us more competitive in the market. I am essentially a solution provider in that I sit with many different people, understand how we are currently doing something

and actively look for ways to do what we do better.

I GOT MY JOB...

I got a degree in Information Management (i.e. A combination of Information Technology & Business Management subjects) to allow my potential entry in IT or Business-focused industries. I then worked at two separate international banks for a total of 14 years, working in many different divisions of those companies and improving my knowledge. Once I felt that my knowledge was pretty strong, I decided to get a job as a Business Consultant where I could use that knowledge to advise smaller businesses. I heard of my current role through a Recruiting Agency.

AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

Business Accounting; Business Management; Economics; Business Statistics; Database



Business Analyst



Banking

Modelling; Visual Basics; Web Design & Java Scripting (to name a few..) The consistent combination of the Business & IT elements gave me good grounding for adopting a holistic view of anything I work on. As a Business Analyst (BA), it is very important to understand the business as a whole and its processes end-to-end. A BA is typically involved in a Project Team, so the ability to work very closely with a wider group is also key.

MY TYPICAL DAY...

Starts at 8:30. I run through my emails and clean up my Inbox. I then draft a 'To Do list' of all the items I need to do for the day. This is important as the typically BA day is often unpredictable and does not involve much of a routine. So it's important to be adaptable, to be a 'self-starter' and take the initiative for the priorities of the day ahead. For lunch: I typically have something from Boots; EATS or M&S. It's cheap and I can create different variations. I strongly believe in taking at least 30 minutes to rest.

THE KEY SKILLS I USE IN MY JOB...

People Skills – The ability to relate to build a rapport and trust quickly. Adaptability – Even with all the planning in the world, most projects will typically throw some surprises, so it's important to be light on your feet and to be ready to adjust as needed. Persistence – There's a lot to do, but a good BA will always add tangible value to the business if s/he can weather the storms in transitioning a business to a better state..

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

I enjoy the unpredictability of the role. No project is every the same: different objectives; challenges; people, all of which make for really enriching (and at times empowering) experience that I think mirrors life in general very well. I find that the skills (as listed above) that I've had to develop for work have also made my a better person outside of it.

THE WORST PART OF MY JOB IS...

It can be difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel when a project is under huge scrutiny. A simple question often translates to many weeks' worth of analysis & work before it can be answered adequately. A good BA is interested in getting things done and doesn't focus solely on the part his/her needs to play. S/he should be ready to jump in anything else (as necessary) if that gets the job done. That extra effort can be taxing.

MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

In life – My parents. Both of them are some of my closest friends, incredibly smart and have taught me many of things that have contributed to my future successes.

On TV – I've always been a huge sports fan, so guys like Michael Schumacher (in Formula 1) or Kobe Bryant (in Basketball) mesmerised me because of how hard they worked at their craft and how great they became as a consequence.

AFTER WORK...

I grab a different DLR & Tube combination depending on the traffic or sometimes just to break the routine. I typically eat rice; potatoes or pasta with chicken; meat balls or fish. I like to cook for 2 or 3 days so that I have (on most days) something ready to eat as soon as I get home. I'm typically in bed around 10 or 10:30 PM.



MY PLAN B...

A Web Designer or an architect – Both offer the elements of creativity and technique.

