

>>Snapshot

Dominic Potts

Writer

WGGB



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Can you tell us a bit about your career to date?

I have always wanted to write and one way or another, alongside my career as a software tester, I always have. In the last few years though, I have been giving my writing more attention and focus and the ultimate dream is to move to a small place in France to write full time.

I've written many short stories over the last 20 years and am currently working on a children's novel. My goal is to have the first draft of my novel finished this year.

In my IT career, I also write procedures and training manuals as well as developing on-line training courses on topics including software testing and software testing tools. I see the on-line training as a developing and additional source of income generation for the future.

What do you like most about your work?

I write sci-fi with fantastical elements and love creating the characters and the worlds they occupy. I create the characters and then allow them to live and breathe. What could be better than that?

What are the biggest challenges of maintaining a freelance career?

The biggest challenge has to be maintaining an income and finding the time to be creative.

Have you added new work/skills to your portfolio over time?

Developing the online training courses has been a useful addition. I don't have any problems using the technology so that side is straightforward for me.

Writing has had the biggest impact though. My two roles seem quite different but it's funny how being able to write has allowed me to expand my range of skills in the IT world to include creating manuals and courses, which then feeds back into giving me more confidence to developing my fiction writing, which is exciting.

What is the biggest challenge of learning the skills that you need?

For me, you can go on a course and learn, but then you need to go and put it into action for it to really sink in. My challenge is making sure I do this. There were some great tips on the confidence day – now I need to make sure I apply them.

What FEU Training courses have you attended?

Confidence Building and Write that book and Get it Published.

What are the most important things that you've learned?

The Write that Book workshop helped me feel much more confident about what I was writing. Having to give a pitch of my novel to the group was great and the individual feedback from the tutor, a published writer herself, was very encouraging. I've taken lots from this day. I no longer just have one goal of completing my book. I now have interim targets and have set myself a daily number of words to write. I know I need to practise my craft and to get out there and make it happen.

The confidence day gave me many tips and techniques for when self doubt strikes. I know I'm a good writer but, when your confidence dips, it can stop you from taking



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chances. The course helped me realise that it's in my own hands.

The workshops have helped me feel more confident at work too. In fact, shortly after the confidence workshop, I had an issue involving a tough personality. The tools from the day helped me step back and ask myself: "What is the worst thing that could happen?" The answer was that they might be annoyed. I realised I could handle that, so raised the issue, and the situation got resolved.

The presentation of both workshops was excellent and I came away energised to move forward with everything I want to achieve.

What has encouraged you to attend FEU Training sessions?

I have belonged to the WGGB for a long time and it is great to see opportunities to get training aligned with what I need to work on as a creative person. These courses are a valuable resource and I think it's important to say that

I would be prepared to pay for them. It's great working with creative people involved in the creative process facing similar challenges, often just different versions of the same issues. It's a brilliant idea putting the four unions together like this and makes it a great way to meet other people and network.

Do you know any other organisation that offers business skills courses for creatives?

No.

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