

John Hill

What makes your team unique from the others in your company?

We work with a lot of smart people within our team – and we have this ethos around the team either wins together or dies together. We share the achievements of goals and as a result we have a tight relationship with [everyone] on the team.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

It's about self-direction and self-management. We as a team understand our objectives but it [comes] down to the individuals. The best part of my job is [that] I choose what I do on a daily basis and outside of that, provide the same opportunity for everyone else. I'm not interested in the number of hours you're sitting down at your desk, I'm interested in the outcome.

What does your position entail you spend your day doing?

We have a culture of daily stand-up. We start the day with a quick debrief. My role as CIO [entails] a lot of team collaboration – it's about understanding the strategic direction of business and strategic direction of teams. Then, how to understand systems and technology [and how they can best be utilized].

What's your story?

When I was in my final year of university, I actually did a project with GetSmarter. And that was when the company was about 20 people. At that stage, I was asked to come to GetSmarter and I said no. I went to pursue a career in corporate finance because that was what you did. I spent three months in that job where I developed an entire mobile application for the [whole] corporate finance division before apps were even a thing. But I found [the pace of] corporate finance too slow, and couldn't express my full creativity as a developer and technical person. So, about a year into the job, I got a call from Sam, the CEO of GetSmarter, to take over the IT function. I joined GetSmarter when there were about 40 staff members and since then haven't looked back. We're now a company of 260 people, another 60 off site, and growing rapidly – there [are] new faces every day.