WOMEN IN IT:

# Shannon Burgess
Digital Transformation Lead at SSCL.

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### Can you tell me about your role within SSCL?

I work in the Digital Transformation team within Police and Resourcing. My role is quite broad and includes anything from management of IT projects and programmes to things like consulting and business analysis. Overall, I look at opportunities to improve the processes across our business with different digital and automated solutions.

### Can you tell me about your career journey to this point so far?

I joined SSCL on the Management Consulting graduate scheme in September 2019 and I began working in the Digital Transformation team on some small IT changes and projects. I've since moved around several roles, all within the same team, progressing into my current role as Digital Transformation Lead.

I'm lucky enough to have experienced quite a lot of different roles and different areas over the past four years, so that's really helped me to gain a breadth of knowledge.

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### Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

That's a difficult question I would like to continue my career and work to lead larger strategic discovery processes, delivering essentially more benefit to our clients using different digital solutions.

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### Who inspires you as a woman working in the IT industry, and why?

There's a lot of inspirational women, but one that really stands out to me is Whitney Wolfe Heard, the founder and CEO of Bumble. She's well known for empowering women and being an advocate for gender equality. I think this is important to see from technology companies, I also find her use of innovation really fascinating.

Bumble has a lot of out of the box thinking, which is why they are one of the biggest dating app companies.

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### In your experience, what are the benefits of having women in IT?

I think diversity in teams is important and people's different experiences and backgrounds really provide crucial input into conversations. If everyone has the same thoughts and same knowledge, then you can't really have a debate and I think that's how you find those big, innovative ideas.

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### Do you have any work-related lessons that are unique to being a woman?

I think the biggest lesson that I've learned is that you can be your authentic self and still be successful in a male dominated industry like IT. It's easy to fall into a habit of mirroring traits of others in reality it's our differences that make us stand out and help us succeed.

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