

Dan Simms FBCS CITP



Dan Simms is the newly appointed IT and Business Operations Director at Midlands-based law firm, Browne Jacobson. He achieved Chartered IT Professional status in 2010, just prior to his new appointment.

Dan's interest in IT began at an early age and developed while he was at school. Following his Computer Science degree at Leeds University, Dan launched his IT career at

'I view Chartered IT Professional status in a similar way to a degree – it demonstrates my commitment to my work and to upholding standards within the profession'

**Dan Simms, IT and Business Operations Director,
Browne Jacobson**

Eversheds Solicitors as IT support engineer. Fifteen years later, and following a brief stint running his own IT leadership and consultancy business, Dan is celebrating his new post at Browne Jacobson.

Having been made aware of CITP status by colleagues some years ago, Dan decided in 2010 that it was time he added this increasingly-recognised industry credential to his name.

Here Dan explains how he advocates the level and rigour of the assessment process, and how he has found his new achievement is a great way to underline his professional status and demonstrate his IT experience, knowledge and expertise.

'In the eyes of a client, either internal or external, Chartered status translates to a safer pair of hands and delivers confidence'

Dan Simms, IT and Business Operations Director, Browne Jacobson

THE MOTIVATION

Dan Simms joined the Institute in 2007. He lives in Wakefield and is the IT and Business Operations Director at Browne Jacobson, a Midlands-based business to business law firm.

Dan achieved Chartered IT Professional (CITP) status in 2010 as he saw CITP as a great way to demonstrate his experience and professionalism.

His recent appointment at Browne Jacobson and Chartered status are the culmination of a rounded career which has seen him develop over 15 years from a support engineer to IT Director.

THE JOURNEY

Dan says a career in IT for him was inevitable. His interest in computers began as a small child fuelled by his father's intuitive foresight that computers would make a significant contribution in the future. Dan sat his GCSE in Computer Studies when he was fifteen after reading a self study guide, and A Level Computer Science a year later after taking an evening class. He went on to run the school network, introducing such changes as a remote screen take over tool for the BBC Micro.

After taking A Levels in Maths, Physics and Chemistry, Dan studied Computer Science at the University of Leeds and began his working career in 1995 as

an IT support engineer at Eversheds Solicitors.

By 2000, he was Support Manager for the Leeds office, and he then joined Addleshaw Goddard as Senior Manager with the task of improving an underperforming IT infrastructure. Six years on, he became Head of IT Technical Solutions. After that he ran his own successful interim IT leadership and IT consultancy business before joining Browne Jacobson as their IT and Business Operations Director.

Dan first heard about CITP status when he worked at Addleshaw Goddard. He recalls a colleague had also achieved Chartered status and was very supportive of it.

'When I came to apply, I was reassured to find that the assessment process was suitably testing' says Dan 'as CITP has to mean something for it to be credible. There were no hidden surprises and the biggest challenge in the end was fitting it in with my other business commitments.'

In this respect, Dan says the structured three stage application process helped to make the workload more manageable and he considers it time well spent.

THE BENEFITS

'I view Chartered IT Professional status in a similar way to a degree' says Dan, 'It demonstrates my commitment to my

work and to upholding standards within the profession. I believe this gives my clients the confidence that they are dealing with an experienced professional who they can trust.'

'In the eyes of a client, either internal or external, Chartered status translates to a safer pair of hands and delivers confidence.'

Dan says that on the occasions when a client has not been familiar with CITP, he's talked to them about it and they have always been impressed and interested in learning more. 'I tend to pass on some of the CITP reading list – the World Class IT Service Delivery being one of the top picks!'

Dan has begun to make use of the Chartered member benefits, using the online library and research material to brush up his knowledge. He's also taken advantage of some of the discounts on monthly publications.

Dan originally joined the Institute because, as well as wanting to advance his professionalism and knowledge, he'd also hoped to make a contribution in the future. Having gained CITP, he now feels he is more fully playing his part in developing IT into the highly respected profession that it deserves to be.