

## Employee Spotlight On:



### Senior Software Developer

On this next step in the publishing journey, we move behind the scenes to the systems and programs which make our jobs possible.

Meet [REDACTED], the Canada-based Senior Software Developer. Since he works remotely on computer systems, only a few people in the Digital and Supply Chain departments get to work with him regularly, which is a shame, because he just might be one of the most interesting IPG staff members.

Besides working with computers, [REDACTED] enjoys spending time in nature. From Kamloops, British Columbia, he “come[s] from a forestry family,” so “being out in the bush,” hiking, or riding dirt bikes is where he feels most comfortable. In fact, he is on a volunteer search-and-rescue team which is always on call to help authorities (often limited to roads and cities) find people who are lost out in the wilds of Canada.

He has also been playing sports most of his life. In 2012, he was on an American football team in China called the Shanghai Warriors. Apparently, several teams like this exist around the world in order to expand the reach of the American sport to global audiences.

When asked whether Canadians are as polite as many Americans believe, he said, “Oh yeah, we apologize for everything.”

[REDACTED] joined the IPG team in 2016 along with INscribe. He has been working with all digital departments to ensure Athena, the eBook delivery system that sends digital publications to retailers like Amazon, runs smoothly. Athena was originally created by INscribe but has since been redesigned to fit the needs of all Digital departments under the IPG umbrella. The Athena team uses a type of agile development methodology called SCRUM to organize themselves and their duties, and Ross is the Scrum Master.

However, [REDACTED] now dedicates most of his time to the development of the supply chain tool, which helps determine how many print copies of each book buyers should order, and the maintenance of the digital data warehouse. He finds the sort of problem-solving required for supply chain work – forecasting demand and making programs more efficient – very exciting.

As a software developer, he didn’t set out to join the publishing industry. In fact, he was originally hired by a record label distribution company called INgrooves to join a new digital distribution team, which then became INscribe.

Even though he is a “computer guy,” [REDACTED] is a big fan of books. He loves science fiction novels, particularly *Dune* by Frank Herbert and the *Red Rising* trilogy by Pierce Brown. “I read all the time,” he said, “so when the opportunity [to join a publishing company] came up, I was really keen on it.”