Adam Mills

Bachelor of Information Technology

CTO & Co-founder

KoalaSafe

What is your role and what does it involve?

CTO and Co-Founder of **KoalaSafe**, a device that provides parental controls across all devices in the home.

Being a founder in an early stage startup is a rollercoaster ride of emotions; every decision you make can be the difference between success or ending up in the dead-pool.

One of the hardest things I had to do was change my "engineering" mentality of building things correctly up front. There's no point taking a month to perform a task perfectly if your company only lasts 3 weeks. Founders have to solve the problem at hand with the simplest solution that works without sacrificing the long term viability of the company, then iterate.

How did your experience at UTS help you with your career?

The industry placements during BIT highlight the stark differences between academic and real world software development. This makes BIT graduates appear much more seasoned than their counterparts. The dual focus (business and computer science) aspects of BIT provided a great foundation for the challenges of starting a company.

The BIT Alumni are a diverse group of people doing amazing things; access to that network has opened a lot of doors for me. The people I met during my time at UTS have gone on to start some of Australia's most iconic companies.

What advice would you give to students thinking of studying IT?

Develop and maintain genuine relationships with as many people as you can. It amazes me how much of business is networking and how personal relationships can open doors. You will be surprised how many of your classmates will go on to do

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amazing things.

We are in an era where it easier than ever for small groups of people, with little to no capital, to impact the world in meaningful ways. Take risks now, test and implement your ideas, corporate life will always be there.