

2014 The Year in Review

Thursday, January 1, 2015

Well 2014 flew by. It seems only yesterday that we were registering [9code GmbH](#). I guess when you're deep into something and concentrating hard, the perception of time gets distorted; everything is about the next milestone or deadline. The initial angst we had over starting a company in a foreign country was quickly overcome. A language barrier does exist, but despite that, more than enough work was (and is) booked - enough to briefly consider another employee. The strategy to learn data analysis and [R](#) has paid off because big data is big. Android programming, Javascript and web design are also in demand but opportunities in 3D printing and the Internet of Things are only slowly materializing.

The first real consideration of what retirement looks like took place over the past year. We had discussions about where to live and what day-to-day life would be like. Nothing has been decided yet but it looks like we'll be buying a place back in Canada, probably southern Ontario, and still working - but at a much slower pace. When I was a lad, forecasts of the future said work weeks would be shorter, and leisure time would be plentiful. I guess they were talking about statistical averages across many people, because for me the work week is getting longer and leisure time more precious. So retirement would just be a way to reverse that.

Alexandra ran into a few obstacles last year, tearing a ligament in her knee and missing passing grades in a few exams, but things are back on track now. Samantha is liking her job and the city of Lausanne it seems. We don't see the girls a lot. Jackie and I disagree on whether that's a normal thing or not. Since we bought [GAs](#) we may be able to be more proactive about visiting them this year.

I'm still doing too many hobbies. There are four or five programming projects, a couple of electronic projects, 3D printing, household projects, and so on. I'm still playing Ingress, where I'm now level 14. Again, with a GA there's a possibility of participating in events further afield.

As far as [last year's resolutions](#) go, I failed miserably, so I might as well just repeat them here for 2015 but with a little more specificity:

- Practice at least four hours per week doing artistic and creative projects.
- Upgrade security - PGP email, ssl on servers, etc.
- Pass the B2 level German exam.
- Get below 80 kilograms and begin a static exercise and flexibility regimen.
- Clean up address book, remember birthdays and anniversaries.

All the best to everyone in 2015,
Derrick