IT and digital professional learning needs are continuously evolving due to a rapidly changing world and COVID-19's impact. We were keen to explore this further, so we surveyed our community of NZ IT and digital professional contacts during July 2020. Here's what we found...
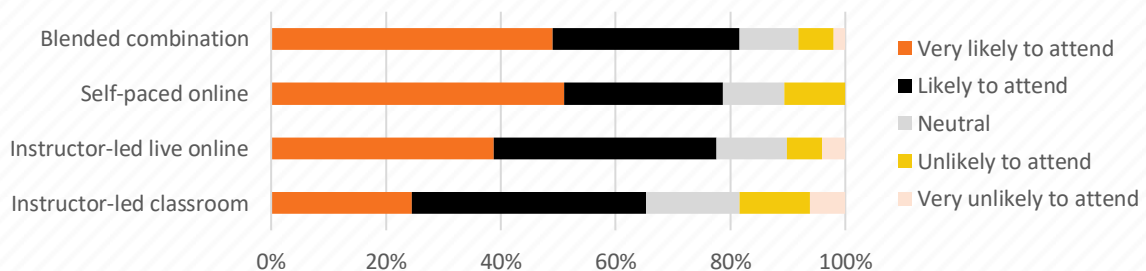
Audience

Current role

- 35% IT or digital practitioner
- 31% Project or product manager
- 34% Other IT or digital role

Location

- 35% Auckland
- 37% Wellington
- 28% Rest of NZ

Learning changes due to COVID-19

Career impact

- 61% Same role, same career aspirations
- 27% Same role, rethinking career
- 12% No longer in role due to COVID-19

Learning priority

Learning is:
- 18% Much higher priority
- 49% Higher priority
- 31% Same priority
- 2% Lower priority

Preferred training delivery

Legend:
- Very likely to attend
- Likely to attend
- Neutral
- Unlikely to attend
- Very unlikely to attend

Categories (y-axis): Blended combination, Self-paced online, Instructor-led live online, Instructor-led classroom. X-axis: 0% to 100%.
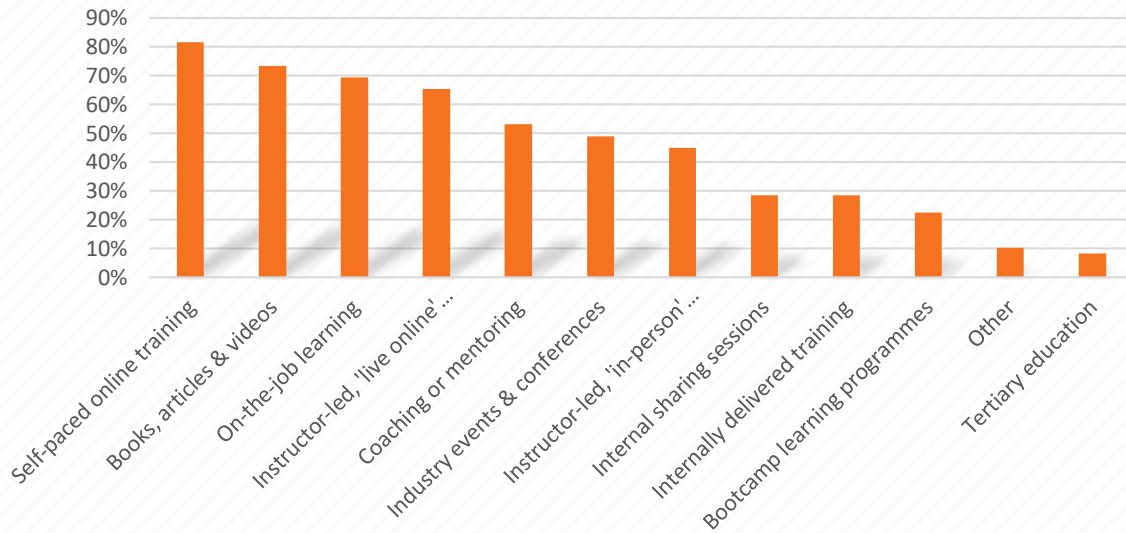
- While most participant's current roles have not been impacted, some have lost their positions due to COVID-19, mostly IT contractors and returning international kiwis.
- Almost all participants see learning as the same or higher priority following COVID-19, potentially acknowledging the need to be relevant in a changing employment market.
- While not substantial, there does seem to be a preference for other training delivery methods over instructor-led classroom training. More discovery is required to identify whether this is due to social distancing preferences, budget constraints or other reasons potentially unrelated to COVID-19.

Equinox Training: part of NZ IT consultancy Equinox IT, we've been delivering training since 2003, and have run over 1,600 courses to train over 12,000 students. We use practising consultants to deliver training that is right-sized for NZ organisations and can be applied immediately.
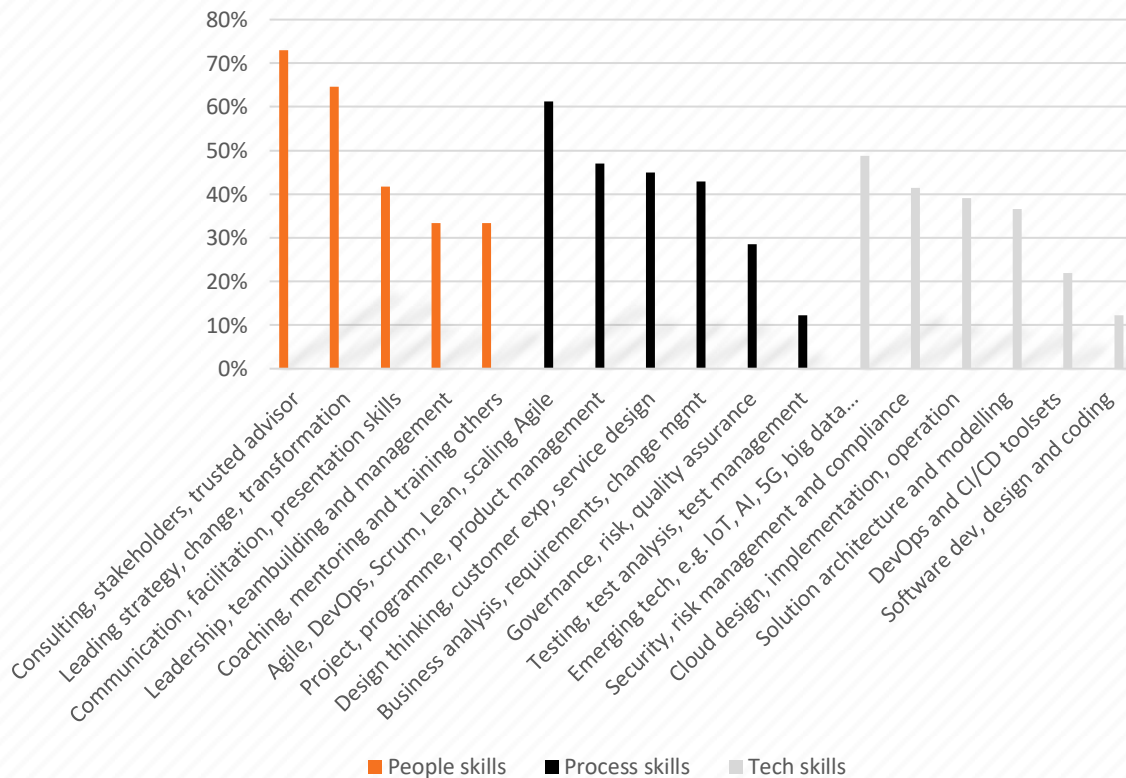
Career aspirations and learning

Participants have career aspirations across the IT and digital sector including roles in analysis, cloud, development, coaching, management, entrepreneurship, consulting and more. All participants' career aspirations were for roles within the IT and digital industry.

IT and digital professionals plan to learn in various ways to gain career skills

IT and digital professionals want to learn a range of 'people', 'process' and 'tech skills'

■ People skills   ■ Process skills   ■ Tech skills

Note: Most survey participants were from Equinox Training's contact lists, and may not represent the New Zealand IT and digital market as a whole.