Hello, my name is Brian. I have just joined this site. Years ago, I took some electronics in college but never quite understood it. It's always something that I've been lacking in my knowledge when it came to IT.

I've done a lot of hobbyist programming in the past and a lot of hardware and software installation, configuration, maintenance, troubleshooting, etc. in my career, at home and for family, friends and colleagues.

Nowadays, I'm on permanent/total disability because I've had two liver transplants due to primary sclerosing cholangitis and ulcerative colitis and I'm now waiting for my third. I'm at the top of the list in all of Ontario tied with one other person. The only thing is, given that it's my third time, my surgeons need a very specific match in my case. It's been a long time waiting and I'm still waiting. Once I get it, I'll be on my road health again and hopefully my third liver will last longer.

Since I'm waiting for a liver and we have a pandemic happening, what better time to learn about electronics and have some fun doing it. I have a bunch of stuff on order. About $500 worth of stuff to start.

My first project is going to be building a prototype for a DIY self-watering plant system with RGB programmable grow light and timer. If I can make a single working prototype for a single plant, then I can work on miniaturizing it and then putting it in an enclosure. The hardware I've purchased including Arduino is going to be fun. The best part is, I can download the final software for the device I'll be creating into a DIP and miniaturize it. Then it's just a matter of finding the right type of enclosure. Maybe I'll have a power switch on it, a timer, an LED display showing the soil temperature, soil humidity, LED grow light status, possibilities are endless. The best part is, this can always be scaled up.

I will likely make videos of different stages of the process and post it on my YouTube channel. This way people will be able to see what different parts of the prototype look like as they're being built. Perhaps I'll talk about some of the challenges, pros, cons, etc.

All of this is of course dependent upon my health and physical ability but we'll see how much I can get through. I have been in recovery for the past few weeks due to a bad series of events with my health. A lot of physical trauma but I am on the mend and I've been a bit bored so I'm anxious to get started. I just have to wait for my Amazon shipments to come in and I can start.

Goodbye for now and be well!