

ISTJ	ISEI	INFJ	INTJ
ISFP	ISFP	INFP	INTP
ESTP	ESFP	ENFP	ENTP
ESTJ	ESFJ	ENFJ	ENTJ

**What if there was a decent alternative to the Myers Briggs Type Inventory (MBTI)?**

The Myers Briggs Type Inventory (MBTI) was developed during World War 2 by Katharine Cook Briggs and her daughter Isabel Briggs Myers. It was later researched by Mary McCaulley from the University of Florida. It is based on the works of the famous Swiss psychoanalysis Carl Jung who described a range psychological types or kinds of personality. The MBTI has become one of the most popular tests used in business. One of the reasons for its success is the simple four-letter summary of personality that it produces – see the graphic above. This enables people to quickly and simply describe themselves in a very helpful way.

Despite its popularity the MBTI has many psychometric flaws, including poor validity (i.e. not measuring what it purports to measure) and poor reliability (giving different results for the same person on different occasions).

The most widely accepted and most commonly used model of personality in current academic psychology is the Big Five model which consists of Openness to experience, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness and Neuroticism or OCEAN.

*What if it were possible to have a simple brief measure of personality using the OCEAN model that also produced a series of simple four or five-letter summaries of personality type?*

Dr Iain McCormick and Stewart Forsyth, both trained in psychometrics, are currently working on this task. They aim to produce a royalty free version of the test that anyone can use on the understand they are willing to share their data with the authors. If you are interested in keeping in touch with the project, please email: [stewart@fxc.co.nz](mailto:stewart@fxc.co.nz)