



FEATURE



Careers in IT Are Booming Again

[By Jeff Karpel, President, Karpel Solutions]

Pursuing a career in information technology or a related field?

The news is very good as demand for those in computer-related industries is on the rise.

According to recent data, one research organization, The Conference Board, said some 4.4 million online job advertisements were placed in April. This represents a 24% increase from the same month in 2006. And of those, about 323,000 ads were in the computer and mathematical category. That category is defined by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics to include jobs such as computer programmer and database administrator.

Another group, the AeA, formerly known as the American Electronics Association, also reported in April a total of 5.8 million high-tech jobs in the US in 2006, up by over three percent from the previous year.

Robert Half Technology recently issued the results of a survey of more than 1,400 CIOs. It indicated that 16% planned to hire additional IT staffers in the first quarter of 2007. That's a positive response; in fact, the highest the recruiting firm had seen since the fourth quarter of 2001.

So how do you land a job in information technology?

It all starts with some basic skills. First, you must be a good communicator able to explain and share problems and solutions. Possessing an inclination to "problem solve" is another strength. So is the ability to

analyze and logically reason through various situations.

Since most IT professionals function as part of a group, maintaining team spirit is also important. Creativity will also help you on a daily basis, as will a respect for deadlines.

Karpel Solutions performs customer software programming for many firms, so programmers are always in demand in our shop as well as others. Microsoft.Net is a hot programming tool, and certifications in this area are a real plus.

Other job categories are also in need of skilled personnel. Some of these include...

- Software Designers and Engineers, who work on complicated and advanced forms of software used to control high-tech equipment.
- Systems Analysts, whose main job is to examine and analyze a business problem, then design an appropriate system to deal with a particular problem, install and check the system.
- Database Managers, who ensure the database is accurate, user-friendly, and in accordance with the latest ideas and technology.

- End-User/Technical Support, for those who have experience with both computer systems and a specific business sector.
- Information Technology Managers, who ensure the availability of the right equipment and properly trained staff, along with arranging for requirements within an allocated budget, negotiating with suppliers, and adapting to the latest business developments.
- High Tech Sales, in which sales skills and computer/engineering skills are used in combination to cultivate new business.

The recent downturn in the high-tech industry now appears to be a thing of the past. Solid opportunities and well-paying positions await those who wish to pursue them.

About the Author

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