IT Career Tips

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Do You Have Passion?

One of the bad side effects of the huge expansion in information technology in the 1990s was that an entire legion of people who really had no interest in computers used IT as their ticket to ride the gravy train. Although these people didn't have a genuine interest in IT and didn't have the skills to perform well once they had a job, they were able to make out like bandits for a few years.

The gravy train has come to a grinding halt. People that go into the business only for the money aren't finding much satisfaction and are either leaving or not even trying to get in. That's good for you, as there is less competition for entry-level work. Still, you have to have a strong passion for computing and information technology before making that career change.

How do you know if you have that passion? Here are some clues:

* You've built several computers on your own.

* You've networked those computers using any kind of operating system you could get your hands on.

* Your spouse or girlfriend/boyfriend has to yell at you to come to bed every night because you didn't realize that it's 3:00AM and you're still working on a difficult problem.

* You download lots of freeware/shareware and borrow stuff from friends just to see what all these programs do. You mess up your boxes because of .dll hell and spend an entire weekend trying to fix the computer rather than FDISKing and reinstalling.

* You receive (and read) 20 email newletters and subscribe to several computer magazines. People wonder about you because you spend so much time in the bathroom (because you leave the magazines in there to read).

* You have psychological (and maybe physical) withdrawal symptoms when you spend more than 8 hours away from your computers. This makes it difficult to travel or go on vacation.

Do you have the computer Jones? If so, then as a career changer you're in a good place. You'll need this kind of passion to carry you through the rest of the process.

Dr. Tom Shinder
Cramsession Windows Insider Author

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