

Welcome to Information Technology

By Bryan Steven Follins

Welcome to all who are thinking of, or who are making the transition from a non-technical to information technology career field. Information technology is a very exciting and ever changing profession. If lucky, one can meet people from all walks of life and see things the average person does not get to see in a lifetime. But first, ask yourself three very important questions:

1. Why I am I picking information technology?
2. What part of information technology do I want to specialize in?
3. Am I capable of re-learning new concepts at a moment's notice?

Why?

This is important. Why do you want to enter the realm of information technology?? Is it because of money? Job satisfaction? Job security? If so, all of these are good reasons, and reachable goals. But first, be aware of a few things.

- Information technology is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week career.
- Information technology knows no day or time.
- It does not know about time zones or holidays.
- It is used by people over the entire world, who speak all languages.

Tip #1: If you hate working weekends, stay away from information technology. If you hate working holidays, stay away from information technology. If you hate working unusual hours, stay away from information technology.

Tip # 2: The information technology field does not provide a foolproof shield against unemployment. Joblessness may not result from incompetence, but from a lack of funding for positions. This is no different than any other career field.

What field do I choose?

Before a decision is made on what field to choose, examine the terminology of technology. A good website for terminology online is www.whatis.com Another valuable tool is Webster's New World Dictionary of Computer Terms, Eighth Edition.

Everyone has their own beliefs about the information technology field. To communicate effectively and intelligently about technology, one must have a reasonably firm grasp of its terminology. This will be examined in further detail in the next article.

The capability to learn again

Traditionally, when most of us receive an education, whether high school, college, technical, or vocational, we figure it will last us for most of our lives. Well, think again if information technology is the field of choice. Terms, concepts, and machines used today may be gone tomorrow. That is no exaggeration.

Next time.....

In the upcoming article, terminology is scrutinized more closely. Critical terms for aspiring newcomers to information technology are examined.