

The Nashville Chapter
of
The Association of Information
Technology Professionals

September 2009
Chapter Newsletter

Trends in IT Skills

Our September program should be of interest to everyone who plans a career in the Information Technology field. The speakers will discuss trends in IT skills both nationally and specifically to Middle Tennessee. They will outline what skills are in demand currently and what skills are growing in popularity. Skills in demand now may not be in the near future as technology changes.

Our principal speaker is Tom W. Clark who is the IT Director of Star Physical Therapy in Franklin, TN. Tom is also our current AITP Chapter President. Tom will be assisted by several local IT recruiters who are known for their expertise. Tom and the “expert” panel will be able to answer specific questions from the audience.

There are a number of interesting questions that will be discussed: How much in-depth knowledge of a skill do I need in order to qualify for an advertised position? How will a recruiter or prospective employer be able to understand my depth, or lack of depth, about a particular skill? What can I expect in an interview? What is the best way to acquire skills that are growing in popularity? What do I do if I am stuck in a job/company that is lagging behind in technology? How important is it to have industry knowledge? How do I get into a company without the industry knowledge of that company?

What can I do to prevent my job from moving to India? Will I have to relocate to find or keep my job? What impact does certification have on the job market? Which industries have the best opportunities for IT people? Which local companies are hiring which different skill sets? The above subjects and more will be discussed generally and, more importantly, in reference to Middle Tennessee.



Tom’s work as IT Director at Star Physical Therapy is to keep sixty Physical Therapy sites up and running. Tom and his staff recently implemented Electronic Health Records to their sites. Tom previously was the Information Technology Manager for Crosslin Vaden & Associates L.L.C. in Nashville. He also worked for Ernst and Young and was the Director of Technology & Telecommunications for Arthur Andersen. Tom previously worked for the Comdata Corporation as Director of Technology and Network Training.

Tom has a MS degree from Abilene Christian University and a BA degree from Harding University. Tom and Karen and their family live in the Franklin, TN area.

This should be a program of interest to all IT professionals. Invite your friends and peers.

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AITP Nashville Roster

| | |
|--|--|
| President: | Tom Clark Star Physical Therapy (615) 591-6590 clarktw2001@hotmail.com |
| Vice President: | JP White jpwhite3@bellsouth.net 615/417-7543 |
| Secretary: | Ella McGill American General 615/749-1346 fax: 615/749-2840 Ella_McGill@agfg.com |
| Treasurer: | Beverly Gibson beverlygibson04@comcast.net 615/424-0135 |
| Chapter Liaison: | Dr. Gerald Marquis Tennessee State University 615/ 963-7096 gpmarquis@yahoo.com |
| Membership Director: | Joan Julius CGI JMJulius@bellsouth.net |
| Director of Programs: | Paul Saunders, CCP Saunders Systems Corp. 615/367-1717 paul@saunderssystems.com |
| Student Chapter Coordinator: | Marshall Messamore Vanderbilt University Medical Center 615/322-3647 fax: 615/343-1214 marshall.messamore@vanderbilt.edu |
| Newsletter Director: | Robert Wright Vanderbilt University 615/322-0004 r.n.right@gmail.com |
| Director of Meeting Arrangements: | Mary Simpson Genesco Inc. 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775 msimpson@genesco.com |
| Website Coordinator: | Mike Eischen Genesco Inc. 615/367-7068 meischen@genesco.com |
| Director of Publicity | Walker Morrow Laser One Inc. Nashville, TN 37210 wmarrow@laserone.com |
| Past President: | Marshall Messamore Vanderbilt University Medical Center 615/322-3647 fax: 615/343-1214 marshall.messamore@vanderbilt.edu |
| Internet Information — | Web Sites |
| Chapter: | http://www.aitpnashville.org |
| Headquarters: | http://www.aitp.org |
| Region 7: | http://members.tripod.com/aitpregion7 |

AITP
P. O. Box 22038
Nashville TN 37202

Dinner Reservation and Cancellation Policy

AITP members will be notified by electronic mail one week prior to the Chapter meeting. Reservations can be made by responding to the electronic notice or by calling **Mary Simpson at 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775** Dinner reservations can be canceled up to 24-hours prior to the meeting without cost.

Since the Chapter pays for reserved meals, No Shows will be billed at the reservation price of \$20.00 for Members, and \$30.00 for Guests.

Members are responsible for their guests' reservations. *If you are a member and have not been receiving this notification, please contact Mary Simpson at:*

615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775
msimpson@genesco.com

September Chapter Meeting:

Holiday Inn Vanderbilt
2613 West End Ave.
Nashville, TN 37203
615-327-4707



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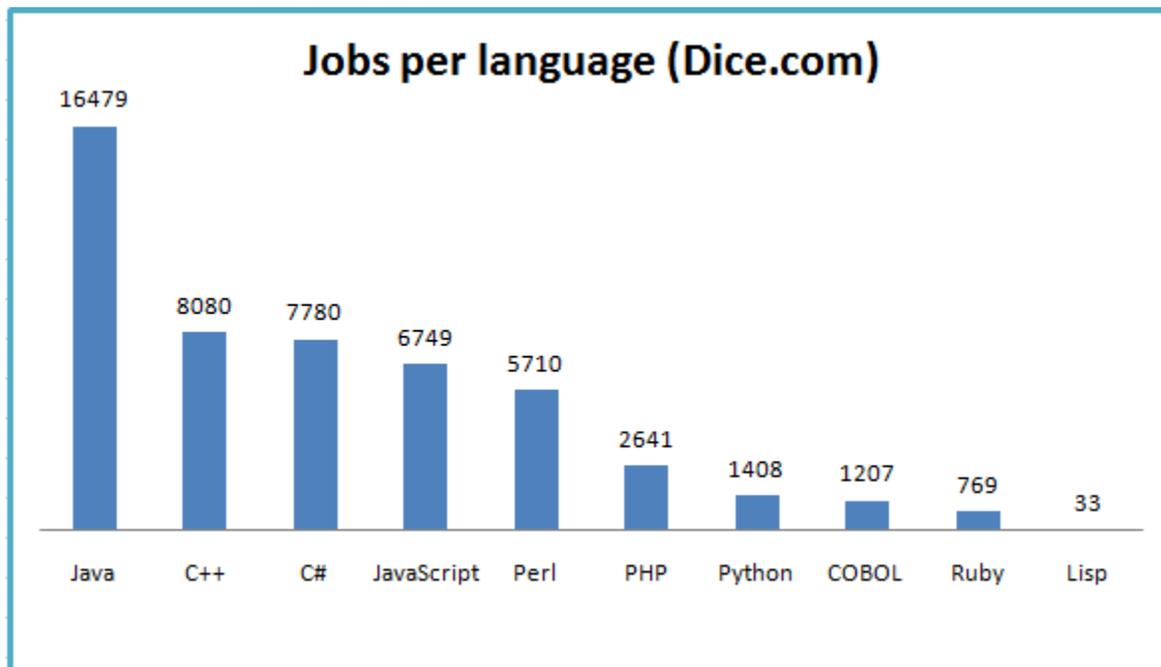
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT — Tom Clark

I was reading an article recently by Gustavo Duarte, a developer/blogger living in Littleton, Colorado.* You will find this interesting:

*Learning programming languages comes at a high cost, good programmers should be proficient in multiple languages. I think of programmers as having **language sets**, based on the idea that knowing one language is not enough for a professional. The task then is to pick the language set wisely to minimize learning time and maximize the benefits to your career. Like other programmers I enjoy toying with different languages, but I'm conservative about fully picking up a language because there's too much process loss involved. I go for the **minimal language set**. This is a look at various languages from this point of view; I hope it's useful to other programmers.*

He then takes the reader through several major points that bring together the industry and current trends. He brings together the data for number of jobs per language across the U.S. from Dice.com.



After pointing out the rationale for his graph he states, “An abundance of jobs is important because it gives you choices. You’re more likely to find a job or contract that better suits you. The more options you have for jobs, the more likely you’ll find the one with the telecommuting, the long vacation, the fired-up team, the interesting project or the right industry”

Here is where he looks at some trends:

Java, C++, and C# clearly take the market demand cake. Java is peculiar in that most jobs require some significant experience in some other technology, like IBM WebSphere or BEA WebLogic. So the market is fragmented. By contrast, the C# market is more monolithic: people use whatever Microsoft gives them. There are pros and cons for each one. The main downside for Java is that most programmers qualify for only a subset of jobs, whereas if you know C#.NET most Microsoft shops are viable. The flip side is that as a Java developer you get to choose a lot of the technologies you use, while for C# you may have to use whatever ships out of the box (sophisticated teams excepted). Java programmers can find sweet contract rates if they know the right stuff. The data at RealRates.com seems to support this (though it looks like they stopped updating the site). C# programmers are more of a commodity. This drives down rates but contributes to platform adoption. (cont. on page 6)

AITP Member Profile

Board Profiles

This month we are profiling, in summary form, our AITP Chapter Board. These are our members who make the chapter work. We are appreciative of their efforts.

- **Chapter President** – leads the chapter and Board meetings, represents AITP to the public, and generally helps in all areas of Chapter activities. Tom Clark is the current President. He is the IT Director at Star Physical Therapy and an AITP member since 2002.
- **Vice President** – substitutes for the Chapter President as needed and may undertake special projects. Normally becomes President the following Chapter year. JP White is the current Vice President. He is the IT Project Manager at Servpro with over 25 years of IT experience.
- **Secretary** – writes and distributes the Board minutes and controls all chapter records except financial records. The Secretary maintains membership contact information and meeting attendance. Ella McGill is the current Secretary and has served on the Board since 1997. She is a Project Coordinator for American General.
- **Treasurer** – receives and disburses the funds of the Chapter and maintains the financial records. Beverly Gibson is our current Treasurer and has been an AITP member since 2006. She is the Senior Project Manager for Outdoor Central.
- **Chapter Liaison** – serves as the communication link between the Chapter and the Association, both Headquarters and Region 7. Represents the Chapter at all Association meetings. Dr. Gerald Marquis is the current Chapter Liaison, which is one of the five elected Chapter Officers. Gerald served for several years as the Student Chapter Coordinator. He is an Associate Professor in Business Information Systems at TSU.
- **Membership Director** – promotes and retains membership in the chapter. Joan Julius is the current membership Director and has served in that position for several years. Joan is a long time AITP member. She is an independent IT consultant with many years of senior IT experience.
- **Program Director** – develops programs for Chapter meetings, identifies speakers, and prepares program write-ups for publicity. Paul Saunders is the current Program Director and has served in that position for a number of years. Paul is a Life Member of AITP. He is President of Saunders Systems Training Corporation.
- **Student Chapter Coordinator** – develops and works with student chapters in Region 7. Marshall Messamore is the current Student Chapter Coordinator and previously served as president of the Chapter. Marshall is a Senior Quality Assurance Analyst with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.
- **Newsletter Director** – develops the monthly newsletter. Obtains information about meetings and other AITP events and organizes the newsletter for publication. Robert Wright is the current Newsletter Director and has served in that position for several years. Robert is a past chapter President. He is the Evening Supervisor for the Vanderbilt University Library.
- **Meeting Arrangement Director** – takes dinner reservations and works with the hotel to provide good food and facilities for Chapter meetings. Mary Simpson is the current Meeting Arrangement Director, has been an AITP member since 1990, and is a past Chapter President. She is the Manager of Database Administration for Genesco, Inc.
- **Website Coordinator** – maintains the Chapter website and puts up the monthly program notice and newsletter information. Receives the newsletter from the Newsletter Director and supervises the printing of the newsletter by Genesco, Inc. Mike Eischen is the current Website Coordinator and has been an AITP member since 2002. He is a Programmer/Systems Analyst with Genesco, Inc.
- **Publicity Director** – works to keep our name and programs known to the non-IT world. Walker Morrow is the current Publicity Director and a relatively new AITP member. He is the Vice President – Sales for Laser-One, Inc.
- **Past President** – gives wisdom to the board and is chairman of the Nominating Committee. Marshall Messamore is the current Past President.

There are about six Board Meetings held each year. Not all Board members attend all meetings. We would be pleased to discuss Board activities with anyone interested.

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2009

| Date | Event | Location | Information |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---|
| September 10 | Chapter Meeting | Holiday Inn Vanderbilt | Trends in IT Skills Tom Clark, Star Physical Therapy |
| October 8 | Chapter Meeting | Holiday Inn Vanderbilt | A Day in the Life of a CIO Jim Gray, Compass Executives |

SPEAKERS

We are always interested in good speakers to make presentations at our AITP Chapter Meetings. If you know someone who is interested in making a presentation on a topic, on their company, or company's products, please contact Paul Saunders at (615) 367-1717 or Paul@SaundersSystems.com.



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AITP NEW MEMBER

Marcus Johnson
Owner
Tehillah Technology Consulting
PO Box 4010
Clarksville, TN 37043
E-mail: marcusjohnson@tehillahtechology.com

Welcome to our new member!

For what it's worth, here's job growth measured by [Indeed](#): (continued from p. 3)



It is a challenge for anyone in IT to be on top of the most current trends. There are decisions to make and even digging deep in to Job Market trends fail to tell the whole story. Salary data is a tough nut to crack to find what is relevant, timely and applicable. Even Google has limitations to what will surface and what will tell us about where the market is heading and what skills will most be in demand.

Where you can find timely information that is current and up to date is to interact with people in industry and working in their profession. AITP is home to Developers, programmers and skilled IT professionals that enjoy learning about what is relevant and what is shaping our careers. Becoming a member and participating in meetings will increase your knowledge of trends and important career impacting changes in the market place.

*Gustavo Duarte: <http://duartes.org/gustavo/blog/post/programming-language-jobs-and-trends>



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Contact Mike Eischen for more information! 367-7068

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