

The Nashville Chapter
of
The Association of Information
Technology Professionals

July 2011
Chapter Newsletter

Nashville IT Hiring Trends

We are always interested in the local employment situation whether we are looking for a job or looking to hire. Our July program is all about this subject and by an “expert.” Our speaker is Eric South who is the Division Director of Technical Support for the Nashville Branch of Robert Half Technology.

Eric will tell us what the Nashville IT hiring environment is and the technical skills that are in demand. He will also discuss 2011 salary trends, both nationally and in the middle Tennessee area. There are several other areas Eric will touch on: the value of certification (pro and con), the importance of soft skills, and retention strategies. He will note the five signs that indicate it’s time to hire and the benefits of flexible staffing.

Eric has six years of experience in the IT industry and joined Robert Half Technology in 2010. Robert Half Technology is a leading provider of information technology (IT) professionals on a project and full time basis. Robert Half Technology has over 100 locations in North America, South America, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific Region. They provide initiatives ranging from web development and They provide initiatives ranging from web development and multi-platform systems integration to network security and

technical support. For more information about Robert Half Technology or about online job opportunities, visit www.rht.com.

Prior to Robert Half Technology, Eric South worked for New Horizons as a project manager and in sales management. Eric has been in Nashville for seven years and in Knoxville for four years, so he is well acquainted with the mid-Tennessee area.

Eric has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from



West Virginia University. He is involved with several local organizations, including International Association of Microsoft Channel Partners (IAMCP) and HDI. He was previously the vice president of programs for the Knoxville chapter of HDI.

Eric is married; his wife is an attorney for the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation. They live in the Bellevue area of Nashville. Eric says he plays golf about twice a month as his major hobby, and his best vacation was to the South of France – which was also his honeymoon.

This should be a good program to bring us all up to date on the IT hiring trends in Nashville. Tell your friends who are looking for IT work about it.

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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.

July Chapter Meeting

Holiday Inn Vanderbilt
2613 West End Ave.
Nashville, TN 37203
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Contact Mike Eischen for more information! 367-7068

President's Message

AITP Networking: Each month I typically mention that at our monthly meetings we welcome anyone present to share job openings at their place of work, or indicate if they are looking for work themselves. This is a very valuable benefit to attending our meetings, there are always job openings even in a down economy. Several members have found work directly as a result of the connections they made at our meetings and they have been at all levels from CEO down to entry level positions. Well known employers in middle Tennessee such as Vanderbilt, Tennessee Tech, Lifeway, Servpro, Genesco to mention just a few are represented by regular attendees and board members of our Chapter of AITP.

AITP nationally have recently extended the discount on membership dues for unemployed workers for a second time. This is understandable given the prolonged nature of this recession.

Cloud Computing: Last month we had Jason Moore of Health Datasource talk about a very current IT topic. Cloud Development. Everything you hear these days is 'cloud this, cloud that'. It was great to have a professional with direct experience come and talk to us about what the cloud is from his perspective as a developer/architect. Jason's definition of the cloud is as follows. "If you are using an application you didn't have to download and install, it's a cloud application". Google Apps are the benchmark for many when developing cloud applications. Google is all about the web and does not ship 'shrink-wrap' software.

So why use Cloud applications, where's the benefit? Easy deployment for one, if there is no download; anyone with a web browser is ready to go. Collaboration across geographical boundaries or corporate silos is a clear benefit for cloud applications, they are available from any computer anywhere there is an internet connection and a browser.

Recently we have seen several cloud applications totally fail when Amazon's EC2 infrastructure went offline for more than a day. Big social networking sites such as Foursquare were out of commission. Jason explained that this is not a failure of the cloud infrastructure per se, but bad architecture from the companies that authored these applications. Health DataSource for example use a cloud infrastructure vendor to host their applications, however they contract with a second company here in Nashville (Peak10) that provide a redundant copy of their systems If their primary vendor fails them, they are still in business. This architectural mistake is frequently made; cloud vendors have redundant systems spread across the globe, which may lead to a false sense of security to the architect. Cloud applications are new, companies will learn from their mistakes. Cloud applications are not always the best choice, traditional client/server applications are sometimes superior. Each project needs to be evaluated on a case by case basis. One size does not fit all!

If you are cloud developer, you have the reassurance that of the 1,100 open positions available in Nashville, ½ of them are for cloud developers. With local colleges focusing on healthcare and business degrees, the skills gap will need to be filled by out of state educated employees. There is a huge need to expand technology education in Nashville colleges.

Facebook Security: Jason gave us a personal tip regarding social networking site Facebook. Due to widespread hijacking of Facebook accounts, he advised everyone present at the meeting to go home and turn on HTTPS in the security setting for Facebook. I went straight home and did this, I hope the rest of you did. Doing more research on Facebook security I discovered one can limit Facebook to be accessed from registered computers only in conjunction with your SMS enabled mobile phone. This additional security measure will prevent someone in say China from gaining access to your Facebook account even if they have your password. For more information on how to do these things visit <http://www.allfacebook.com/facebook-privacy-settings-2011-02>

I look forward to seeing you all at our July meeting at the Holiday Inn Vanderbilt.

JP White

President, AITP Nashville Chapter

<http://www.aitpnashville.org>

MARK J. DAVISON



Our profile this month is on Mark Davison who is in transition from his recent position as Vice President, Business Technology of Bridgestone Americas Inc., which is a global business unit of Japan based Bridgestone Corporation. Mark was also President, Open Roads Technology, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bridgestone-Bandag. Open Road Technologies provides IT hardware, custom software development, and service support to commercial tire dealers and fleets. Mark has been in Nashville with the Bridgestone organization for two years.

Before moving to Nashville, Mark was the Vice President & CIO and President of Open Road Technologies for Bandag, Incorporated based in Muscatine, Iowa. Bandag, Inc., a publicly held company with \$1 Billion in annual revenue, was acquired by Bridgestone Americas in 2007. Mark was with Bandag, Inc. for 23 years, starting as a Research Engineer and then moving through positions of increasing responsibility including Vice President, Research & Development, VP & CIO, and President, Open Road Technologies.

Mark has an impressive background as a member of the senior executive team reporting to the CEO, accountable for leading the IT function managing a \$90M budget, 350+ employees, and 100+ consultants located in multiple geographic locations. He collaborated with global business units in Europe, Asia, and South America to facilitate purchasing, process improvements and business development in diverse cultures. Mark built a robust Project Management process and Strategic IT/Business Governance partnerships that resulted in IT projects being predictably on time and on budget. He managed a SAP based ERP initiative to improve the order management process with payback projected in less than five years with savings of \$15M to \$20M annually. These are only two of the many projects that Mark has accomplished over his 25 years with Bandag and Bridgestone.

Mark has an M.S. degree in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Tulsa and a B.A. degree in Mathematics from Central College in Pella, Iowa, where he played football as a linebacker. Mark has been involved in various community affairs, including the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, Muscatine Chamber of Commerce (President & Board Member), and Board of Directors of TEAM Technologies, Cedar Falls, Iowa, and CFNA Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio.

Mark is looking for opportunities as a Senior Information Technology executive or consultant. He is willing to travel or relocate.

Mark says his favorite vacation place is Lake Okoboji in Northwestern Iowa for motor boating and water skiing. Mark is married and lives with his family in Brentwood. Say "Hello" to Mark at our next AITP meeting and help him stay in Nashville.

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2011

AITP Calendar of Upcoming Events - 2011

Date	Event	Location	Information
July 4	Independence Day	U.S.A.	Wave the Flag
July 14	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Vanderbilt	Nashville IT Hiring Trends, Eric South, Robert Half Technology
July 28	Folding party	Saunders' House	Come network with other AITP'ers
August 4	General Election	Tennessee	Vote your Choice
August 11	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Vanderbilt	Al Azmitio, CIO, iPractice Group

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

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Welcome to our new member!

**AITP Unemployed Professional Membership Discount Renewed
By: AITP Membership Service Area**

On June 22nd, the Association Board of Directors unanimously approved renewal of the popular Unemployed Professional Discount to be effective for a full year - from 9/1/11 until 8/31/12. To qualify for this discount a person must have been previously employed in the IT profession and must now be unemployed.

Current AITP members may use the discount when their membership comes up for renewal anytime in the coming year, but new members are welcome at any time, provided they meet the qualifications above. The discount of \$50 reduces the Association dues to \$55. Chapter and Region dues (if applicable) must also be paid and are not discounted.

Last year, over 200 individuals took advantage of the program and extended or joined AITP. Naturally the association leadership wishes that all IT Professionals regain and retain full employment, but we also realize that there is currently a nationwide unemployment rate hovering around 10%, and the economy has been slow to recover.

What better way to network among your peers, than at a chapter, region or national event? Most chapters meet every month from September through June, and some meet throughout the entire calendar year. The opportunity to network and share your professional interests and talents could assist you in getting back on track to gain full time employment.

The association dues have been reduced to \$55; which is a savings of \$50 off of the normal amount. Local Chapter and Region dues if applicable must be paid and are not reduced. Members who previously took advantage of this Unemployed Membership Discount will be eligible for this promotion as long as they are able to validate that they are still unemployed. This membership discount will not be available online.

Be sure to take advantage of this limited offering. The total membership or renewal for the Nashville chapter will be \$85, compared to the regular \$135 membership fee.

For more information, email memberservices@aitp.org.



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