

The Programming Profession

from

The Programmer's Guild

On the Political Front

Washington Times Nov 11, 2002

SEC aide quits after leak to Chinese

An employee of the Securities and Exchange Commission was forced to resign after it was discovered she had sent sensitive data on American computer companies to China in what U.S. officials say may be a case of economic espionage, The Washington Times has learned.

AP Nov 22, 2002

The California software giant Oracle Corp. said Friday it is shifting to India some of its back-office operations.

Forbes, Dec 5, 2002

The New HP Way: World's Cheapest Consultants

"We're trying to move everything we can offshore," HP Services chief Ann Livermore told Wall Street analysts at a meeting Wednesday.

The Times Union Nov 29, 2002

Investigators say three Drexel University fraternity brothers conspired to create bogus winning tickets worth thousands of dollars. But their biggest haul — a rigged ticket with a \$3.1 million payout — proved to be their undoing.

Chris Harn, the inside man in the

scheme, pleaded guilty in federal court to conspiracy to commit wire and computer fraud and money laundering. He told authorities that he used his access as a senior software engineer at Autotote, a wagering management firm, to fix at least three winning multiple-race tickets, including the Pick Six ticket for the Breeders' Cup, a premier race in Arlington Park, Ill.

AP Dec 6, 2002

Political party officials and the donors they solicit have routinely linked big contributions to government business, from merger approvals to meetings with top officials, according to previously sealed court documents that offer a window into the business of fund raising in Washington.

Guild Election News

To re-cap our last issue, long time leader, Guild founder and current Chairman of the Board, John Miano, is stepping down to pursue a law degree. In the wake of John's exit **The Programmer's Guild** is having it's first scheduled election under it's new by-laws. The election was planned for December but newsletter staffing issues delayed publishing the enclosed campaign statements and ballots though the promised web presentation of candidate's campaign statements and biographies were made available at:

www.programmersguild.atfreeweb.com/candidate.htm

The url was announced through the paying members yahoo group TheProgrammersGuild@yahoo.com. There are seven positions on the board of directors that have to be filled, with terms starting at the beginning of the year. The top four vote getters will serve for two years and the remaining three will serve a half term of one year. Starting the following year, all directors will have staggered 2-year terms.

The board will select the chairman who will serve as the leader of **The Programmer's Guild**.

To run for the board and to vote for the board you must be dues paying member of the Guild in good standing.

We have eight candidates running for election to the board. Candidates campaign statements follow this introductory article. Following the campaign statements is a postage paid mail in ballot with your return address on it.

The board will appoint some positions following the optional election of a chairman. John is currently also serving as secretary and treasurer so these are two offices that might have new

Comments

Letters to the Editor and submissions for publication may be made to :

newsletter@programmersguild.com

or

The Programmers Guild
PO Box 1250
Summit NJ 07902-1250

appointees. Vote for seven candidates and mail back the postage free pre-addressed ballot.

Candidate Profiles

Valerie Chau

San Diego, California

My objective is to establish assist myself and other high tech American professionals obtain and keep well paying jobs with health benefits. I am especially interested in helping those of us over 40 who have been laid off and replaced with younger cheaper foreign workers.

To this end I would like to see The Programmer's Guild become a networking and support group for all of us, helping us gain skills we need to compete in today's job market, network to find employment, and obtain some kind of certification that will enable us to become and stay employed. I would also like to see us as a group somehow be able to influence the political process in this country to bring back high paying jobs before we all fall into the poverty that I have experienced much of my life.

My main focus is jobs and benefits. But if I have any skill that would help another

Brian Dietrich

Austin, Texas

In the IT industry for the last 12 years. Strong skills in ERP and CRM and other enterprise level skill sets. Programming is his passion, his livelihood and it is his strong desire to keep the American Programmer's standard of living from sliding away like so many lost manufacturing jobs in this country.

I have been in the PG for about a year now. I hear a lot of rumblings in trade magazines and through the IT press about this H1B/offshore issue. Frankly, I see a lot of energy building out there. There just needs to be a central rallying point—someone to pick up the sword as it were and lead the masses into battle. We need to come out of the shadows, learn what other trade organizations promote for their members, come up with a central theme of operation, recruit more membership and get on with the business of cleansing our profession. I can help provide this leadership and these kinds of organizational skills.

I can set the agenda, organize the schedules and identify/hire the kind of leadership that we need after we identify exactly what our charter is and what we want to accomplish. I am pumped and serious about this regardless of my physical health right now. So yes, please consider me for the board.

Paul Hanrahan

Rocky River, Ohio

My objective is to establish mutually agreed on standards for quality software and a process for producing quality software. I think The Programmer's Guild should strive for independent certification of programmers being able to perform according to mutually agreed on standards in rolls such as designer, developer, technical writer, database administrator and other roles that the membership establish. An independent and objective process, involving a third party Guild representative, should be established for arbitrating in disputes over quality software and related deliverables being produced according to agreed on standards and processes.

The Programmer's Guild should work in unison to insure a fair method for producing quality software and related deliverables that furthers the industry for programmers and the community that uses their services.

An incremental approach toward organizing for mutual support, protection of programmers and of their products should be undertaken so that our response is appropriate to the degree of resistance we meet in trying to improve our own lot and that of those who purchase and use the products of our efforts.

Sab Maglione

Branchburg, New Jersey

My objective is to establish a national professional standards and ethics organization that IT professionals can (must) participate in. This new organization will be committed to standards, ethics, education, practice and advocacy on behalf of the IT industry and professional. Develop and promote standards and standard certification so that all IT professionals will be equally judged. This new organization will be the authoritative voice and influential advocate for the IT industry and professional. This new organization will be an IT repository providing benefits for both the IT professional and IT employer.

Mike Rinaldi

Whippany, New Jersey

I am proud of who I am and what I represent in our campaign to restore dignity and respect to the American engineering profession.

I have not worked twenty-plus years in the engineering profession to see it get

betrayed and destroyed by the selfish, incompetent whims of corporate management and US government political leaders.

I owe this to my children and future generations as well.

Nino Seritti
Seven Hills, Ohio

Despite latest positive signs coming from the Federal Reserve, the Greater Cleveland area continues to suffer from an economic recession. Almost daily for more than 18 months we've been hearing or reading about this areas sluggish and stalled economy and worry over loss of more jobs to follow LTV Steel, Ford, TRW and a myriad of other employers both big and small. Declining profits for area business's has turned the once booming Cleveland area economy into a wasteland.

However, for businesses in Northeast Ohio, there is a small professional community that offers an appeal that they would be foolish to overlook - Information Technology! According to the "Information Technology Staffing Needs Assessment of Northeast Ohio" this community of professionals numbers approximately 78,000 and constitutes about 5% of the full-time workforce in Northeast Ohio. The study done by the Cyprus Research Group and the Greater Cleveland Growth Association Research Department for the Northeast Ohio Regional Economic Development Strategy Initiative and the Jobs and Workforce Initiative in order to help inform and shape regional workforce development and training efforts.

For years, some area leaders have suggested the necessity of moving from

an industrial based model to a service-based model in order to hedge against the overpowering loss of manufacturing sector jobs to other areas. With the current economic conditions and the continuing loss of these 'old guard' jobs the area is positioned to provide a genesis from the old 'Rust Belt' to a new 'Bit Bucket' economy. The current professional workforce together with the educational potential for training the future workforce combine to provide a very strong offering to business. To begin doing so the IT community must provide leadership in specific areas.

"Providers of IT services can help rejuvenate the Cleveland area by keeping their customer base very knowledgeable of the available technologies," said Paul Apostle Vice President of Antares Management Solutions a subsidiary of Medical Mutual. A veteran of the Cleveland IT community, having started his IT career with the Cleveland Press in the late 1960's he has dealt with the ups and downs of both business trends and IT issues. Mr. Apostle describes greater Cleveland's potential as similar to what made Silicon Valley attractive in it's early days; citing its blend of 4 year and 2 year colleges and trade schools which provide exceptional opportunity for a great talent pool. But that's not all. In Mr. Apostle's view there must be a mix of fresh talent and strong technical experience.

As one might suspect, the area provides a large array of experienced professionals. In fact, according to general findings of the Information Technology Staffing Needs Assessment Of Northeast Ohio "While most IT companies in Northeast Ohio are small, IT occupations represent a significant percentage of the workforce in

Northeast Ohio. This study estimates that there are about 28,500 IT professionals working in IT companies, and there are almost twice as many (45,000) IT professionals working in companies that do not consider IT their main product or service."

"Can area business use that knowledge? Is it an attractive commodity for the business community to exploit?"

"Knowledge of a technology using the experience at hand can and in fact has often led to a better product for the customer of IT services." said Paul Hanrahan, a member of the Board of Directors and Regional Coordinator of PGOhio, an organization involved with the mutual dissemination of information about the IT community. Mr. Hanranhan said the industry must continually focus on producing the "best product possible in the field of Information Technology." PGOhio is a local arm of the nationally recognized Programmers Guild base in New Jersey. "This talent pool", says Mr. Hanrahan, "can provide intelligent well planned avoidance of pitfalls inherent in the process of getting the product to market." He goes on to state that "these individuals contribute strongly to the decision making process on both front end and back office, always with a focus on the business perspective and overall customer needs."

Although Northeast Ohio is facing a major challenge as the current recession continues, the soft job market gives area business a unique opportunity. By taking advantage of Information Technology's strong pool of professional talent to supply seasoned veterans, the varied system of higher education, and by grooming entry level IT professionals,

area business will lead the Northeast Ohio area out of the recession and in to the brave new world of a service oriented economic model assisting the area in the diversity necessary to thrive in the 21st century.

Mr. Seritti is an independent IT consultant and president of Crest Development Inc.

Linda Nesheim
Plymouth, Minnesota

I began working in IT in 1976 as a mainframe programmer and have been a consultant for the last 19 years. I have done everything from programming to project management and user training, but prefer design, analysis and programming.

I became interested in H-1B visa issues when I saw Y2K projects ending, but the foreign workers were not leaving, but American programmers were being let go from the projects.

I started an email group of people I knew that were concerned about the numbers of foreign workers that were here. I sent emails of articles that I found and websites with information about H-1B visas. Our group of about 50 people ended up the Minnesota Chapter of the Programmers Guild and I am a current member of the Board of Directors of the national Programmers Guild.

In researching H-1B visas, I became concerned about our current immigration process and the effect it is having on our country. I am involved with the Minnesota for Immigration Reform and am a member of FAIR and NumbersUSA.

Terry Oldberg
Los Altos Hills, California

As one of two authors of the bylaws of the Programmers Guild, I am able to explain the purpose of stipulating that the Members shall elect the Directors. The purpose is to place the Members in control of the organization.

It follows that the cardinal rule of deportment for a member of our Board is to do what the Members want done. I heartily endorse this rule.

However, the desires of the Members are not always obvious. When the desires of the Members are unknown, actions by the Board necessarily reflect the views of the Directors themselves. Thus, the Members should know something about the views of candidates before voting for the Directors.

In my view, legislation opening the borders of the U.S. to programmers from low-wage nations is the gravest of threats to the livelihoods of American programmers. Computer industry lobbyists have begun a campaign to keep the current cap on H-1B visas or eliminate it altogether. The first priority for the Programmers Guild should be to resist the computer industry's juggernaut.

We are armed with facts and logic. Our position is consistent with ethical principles. However, the history of battles over H-1B legislation suggests that the outcome can be bought and we have very little money in comparison to our opponents. Thus, the second priority for the Programmers Guild should be to develop a process that raises significant amounts of money.

Generally speaking, it takes money to raise money and we don't have much

money. Thus, we are in a bind and should look for ways to escape from it. Ideas that come to mind include:

- Advertising for members on Web sites that draw hits from folks who are injured by H-1B visas and don't charge much money
- Funding experiments in marketing such as beer blasts for prospective members
- Modifying our Web site to make a more compelling case for membership
- Promoting bonding among members so they are more willing to accept the financial sacrifice of membership
- Merging with an existing labor union that is willing to provide upfront money. I understand that the United Auto Workers put up \$1 million to get the United Writers Union started.
- Creating an agency that finds jobs for members and generates revenues via fees from them
- Creating a body shop that employs members and generates revenue by getting a percentage
- Applying for grants from foundations that favor more restrictive laws on immigration

To move to a different issue, a priority for some of our members is a system for certifying programmers that makes more sense than the one that we have now. While I'd be happy to work toward implementation of their ideas if this is the desire of a majority of our members, certification is not a priority for me, personally.

My view is that the process by which employers evaluate candidates for programming jobs is neither rational nor

effective. However, I am somewhat skeptical about the prospects for improving this situation through certification. For engineers outside civil engineering, certification has proved to be more of a nuisance than a boon, for employers ignore them in making hiring decisions but it is illegal to call oneself an engineer without being certified: Neither credits nor degrees from accredited schools of engineering are relevant in the eyes of the certifiers.

Siemens Way Not the American Way - How to fight back **By Michael Emmons**

Our displacement story at Siemens ICN Lake Mary, FL has reached all over the country, as a matter of fact, all over the world. I have gone to great lengths to expose the travesty Siemens ICN has inflicted on its' staff. Siemens ICN hired Tata Consulting to be its outsourcing partner. But I call it "insourcing". Tata Consulting India uses the L1 "intra-company transfer" work visa to transfer Indians to Tata Consulting USA. These "so-called" consultants are then sold off to American businesses, Siemens in this case.

Under the L1 work visa

1. Foreigners come into our country
2. With the sole intent of taking our jobs
3. **Management mandates we train them**
4. Their children can go to our schools
5. **While we are sent to the unemployment line**
6. AND our Congress VOTED for this

Thanks to Peter Bennett's advice I located documents that Tata Consulting created. Those documents describe

"Knowledge Transition". Knowledge Transition from Americans to Indians. Documents also describe the families of these Indians, some have school age children. So, if they brought their children it is very probable that the property taxes of the displaced Americans pay for the education of the foreign replacements. Is this fair for Americans?

For 5 months I have aggressively gathered information and begged our congressional leaders to help. Help was not to be had. So I took it onto myself to inform the masses. From what I hear, my email blitz has shocked Siemens. Emails to Siemens USA and Siemens AG top management (addresses came right off their websites), Tata Consulting management, Congress, President Bush and OF COURSE the media has had tremendous success, to the tune of 20000 hits on my webserver in 1 week. Insiders tell me Siemens is preparing for a "media disaster". I have also heard, the CIO of Siemens ICN recently told other CIOs of Siemens companies "if you are planning on outsourcing, you better have lots of lawyers and big pockets".

You can see the emails and read about my fight back at corporate American and Congressional greed at <http://www.hannatroup.com:81/>

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We the Corporations of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense of Corporations, promote the

general Welfare of Corporations, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to our Corporations and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Corporations of the United States of America.

What's Hot?

by **Eric Turner**

The employment landscape for Software Engineers, Computer Scientists, and Computer Programmers is far from static. In order for educators and job seekers to remain competitive, they must stay abreast of changes in the field..Computer Science blends the theoretical with the practical. Though most of the fundamental concepts in Computer Science remain unchanged, the tools change constantly. One of the most influential tools is the programming language.

To keep up with employment trends in programming languages I have searched monster.com and dice.com to categorize the number of job listings by the programming languages mentioned in each listing. The list of languages is far from comprehensive, however I have attempted to represent languages that seem obvious or were requested by someone.

I hope that you find this informal inquiry to be interesting. Of course, if you would like me to add another language to the search please let me know at [eric.r.turner\(at\)bitbreather.com](mailto:eric.r.turner(at)bitbreather.com). The table with the results are on the next page as "Table 1" and the search arguments the table is based on follow:

Search Patterns for Dice.com and Monster.com

- “ada” AND NOT “ada base” AND NOT “adabase”
- “c”
- “c++”
- “caml”
- “cobol”
- “delphi”
- “fortran”
- “haskell”
- “java” AND NOT “javascript”
- “javascript”
- “labview”
- “lisp”
- “pascal”
- “perl”
- “php”
- “powerbuilder”
- “python”
- “rexx”
- “tpg”
- “sas”
- “smalltalk”
- “sm”
- “sql”
- “tcl”
- “visual basic” OR vb

Number of Job Listings by Programming Language: 2003-01-04 11:00

| Skill | Monster.com | Dice.com | Percent |
|--------------|-------------|----------|---------|
| SQL | 5000+ | 2486 | 24.06% |
| ASP | 2156 | 2480 | 14.90% |
| Java | 2664 | 1862 | 14.55% |
| C++ | 2046 | 1480 | 11.33% |
| Visual Basic | 2037 | 1095 | 10.07% |
| Perl | 925 | 548 | 4.73% |
| Javascript | 914 | 489 | 4.51% |
| Cobol | 595 | 532 | 3.62% |
| SAS | 805 | 269 | 3.45% |
| C# | 284 | 179 | 1.49% |
| Ada | 377 | 65 | 1.42% |
| RPG | 248 | 163 | 1.32% |
| PowerBuilder | 155 | 106 | 0.84% |
| PHP | 189 | 30 | 0.70% |
| Delphi | 157 | 55 | 0.68% |
| Fortran | 121 | 49 | 0.55% |
| LabVIEW | 108 | 27 | 0.43% |
| Tcl | 73 | 33 | 0.34% |
| Python | 55 | 32 | 0.28% |
| Smalltalk | 41 | 30 | 0.23% |
| Rexx | 33 | 25 | 0.19% |
| Pascal | 28 | 17 | 0.14% |
| Lisp | 12 | 9 | 0.07% |
| SML | 7 | 6 | 0.04% |
| Haskell | 6 | 6 | 0.04% |
| Caml | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| | | 19036 | 12073 |

Table 1

Developer's Corner by Paul Hanrahan

In the programming profession one can write all the code in the world for naught if there is no customer need. What follows is a proposal for an application that could have marketable value. Future issues will contain further articles on the feasibility of the proposed application and high level and technical design articles. The readership is invited to follow up on the brief proposal with contribution to with their contributions to development of the proposal in the form of articles address feasibility, business and technical design issues.

A need in the market has arisen for a Web based application that provides medical administrative support functions for case management (CM), utilization management (UM), referrals and pre-certifications (RP). There are currently product offerings in the aforementioned medical administration areas that run on a variety of technology platforms. Each platform and function combination

provides advantages that are appropriate to their respective customer sets and business use. Combining the customer sets and administrative functions has generated a new set of software and application requirements based on the expectations and operational needs of those who would use a product that unifies the medical administrative functions of UM, CM, and RP.

New technologies make it feasible to produce a product capable of all the above administrative functions on platforms that are easier to maintain, less expensive to the customer, reliable and provide faster response time than current market offerings. The two components of the proposed application would communicate remotely using the ANSI X12N 278 standard.

Chapter News

Nothing submitted this
quarter

Coming Next Issue: Election Results

More of "The Developer's Corner".

Ballot for Election to Board of Directors

Deadline for Mailing is Friday, February 28, 2003



Check Box

Check off up to seven choices

Valerie Chau

Sab Maglione

Nino Seritti

Terry Oldberg

Linda Nesheim

Brian Dietrich

Paul Hanrahan

Mike Rinaldi

Membership Renewal and Change of Address

Please check your address on the mailing label of this edition of **The Programming Profession**

If there is a zero following "Issues Remaining" on your mailing label then this is your last copy of the newsletter and the end of your first year of membership in **The Programmer's Guild**

Some of you who were part of our first membership drive have received a few free months of membership.

We hope you decide to renew your membership.

Founding memberships are no longer available. Dues are still \$35.00 U.S. per year. If you decide to renew then mail your membership fee along with your member number, found on the mailing label for this newsletter, to:

Attn: Membership
The Programmer's Guild
P.O. Box 1250
Summit, NJ 07902-1250

The Programmers Guild
PO Box 1250
Summit NJ 07901

Return the ballot by tearing out this last page and tri-folding the ballot with this side out. Make sure the side of the ballot with The Programmer's Guild mailing address and the sticker with your return address are showing. Thanks for participating. Hope those of you who's memberships are expiring will consider renewal. Remember, only paying members can vote and this is the time for renewal. If you aren't renewing we won't include your vote in the elections results.

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