Life’s Work

Monster Careers: How to Land the Job of Your Life, Jeff Taylor and Doug Hardy. “This book is about finding and landing your dream job,” says Taylor, who is founder of the Internet employment site, Monster.com. This book has tips for the unemployed, recent grads, people looking for something better, and those facing job insecurity. Even those satisfied with their jobs should look to improve job skills and encourage advancement. The authors guide readers through the basics of searching for a job, including developing what the authors call a FAME attitude: Think like a free agent; train like an athlete; prepare like a marketer; and work like an entrepreneur.

This book also offers advice on networking, creatively describing professional achievements, and creating a “resume that sells.” Many of the worksheets, templates, and schedules within the chapters are also available online at Monster.com.

Recruiters, career counselors, and human resources professionals offer advice in the book. Monster.com members also share their job-hunting techniques.


Interview Cheat Sheet

Ace the IT Job Interview! Paula Moreira. IT hiring managers share off-the-record advice to IT job-seekers in this book, which includes tips in job search areas such as preparing for the interview, overcoming preinterview jitters, writing thank you letters, and negotiating salary.

The book also offers advice on disclosing experience, education, and previous employment, and advises those reentering the workforce.

One section contains job descriptions and qualifications checklists. It also lists more than 500 sample interview questions for IT jobs such as network administrator, Web designer, programmer, desktop support staff, and consultant.

Other topics include learning about a potential employer’s company before the interview; how to present skills effectively and position for the desired job; how to contact the correct hiring person by telephone; and the best questions for an interview’s conclusion.


Offshoring Mistakes and Successes

http://itmanagement.earthweb.com/career/article.php/3343461

Sharon Gaudin’s 21 April 2004 article, “Indian Exec on Offshoring: Mistakes, Politics and Money,” explores the effect of offshoring jobs in India, where many US jobs are heading.

The article quotes Sunil Chitale, vice president of Patni Computer Systems Ltd., as saying that although the labor market in India is not suffering as many IT job losses as the US labor market, Indian high-tech workers must deal with US customers who are not yet savvy about outsourcing’s demands.

The author mentions a March 2004 Gartner study showing that one quarter of traditional US IT jobs will take place offshore, in countries like India and China. An estimated 5 percent or fewer jobs take place offshore now.

In the article, Chitale discusses the mistakes companies make when offshoring IT work, his concerns that US companies will move their offshored work to China, and how the US political climate affects the bottom line of companies in India.

CIO’s Career Site

http://www.cioupdate.com/career

The CIO Information Network’s CIO Update site offers a section devoted to IT careers, including information on technology trends, staffing, CIO insights, budget, people, special reports, research, and industry news.

The page’s main section contains links to articles related to IT jobs and staffing, including an article titled, “Is Your Staff Happy?” A new CareerBuilder.com survey finds one out of five women have fewer opportunities for career advancement than men at their current organizations.

The site also includes the article, “CIOs ‘Cautious’ About Q3 Hiring.” According to the article, most CIOs in the US plan no staffing-level changes in Q3Q4.

Another article, “Keeping Talent When Offshoring Looms,” offers tips on how to maintain morale, hold on to the staff you need, and make the offshoring relationship work.
Rising Above the Vendors

IT Architectures and Middleware: Strategies for Building Large, Integrated Systems, Chris Britton and Peter Bye. The authors focus on the principles and priorities of enterprise systems design, emphasizing the new requirements engendered by e-commerce and distributed, integrated systems. Britton, who works for Unisys, discusses middleware technology alternatives, and their resiliency, performance and scalability, and security. Systems management, information access and accuracy, and the creation of a new presentation layer for existing applications are also part of middleware today.

Readers can study distributed systems and best practices in IT architecture to help them rise above the conflicts of new business objectives, vendor wars, and new technologies.

Technology-specific topics include Corba, COM+ (Component Object Model), and EJB (Enterprise JavaBeans).


Middleware in the Telecom Industry

Middleware for Communications, Qusay H. Mahmoud. Middleware has a successful history in the computing industry and the telecommunications industry is considering how to use middleware to address major architectural issues.

The author covers research on remote method invocation, Corba, J2EE, and related areas (such as middleware for smart cards, mobile computing, and interactive TV). A research road map helps companies and individuals position themselves for the future.

The book addresses telecommunications workers, developers, middleware researchers, software engineers, and software architects.


International Middleware Conference

18-22 Oct. 2004
Toronto

Middleware 2004, the ACM/IFIP/Usenix 5th International Middleware Conference, covers middleware research and technology. The conference focuses broadly on the design, implementation, deployment, and evaluation of distributed systems platforms and architectures for future computing environments.

One of the planned workshops, iMiddleware for Pervasive and Ad-Hoc Computing (MPAC), seeks to develop a road map for research on essential software infrastructures for ad-hoc and pervasive computing. The workshop identifies appropriate core architectures, languages, and systems to address the specific problems of large-scale, real-world, pervasive computing environments.

The Reflective and Adaptive Middleware Systems workshop plans to uncover new ideas and gain insight on the experiences of researchers on adaptive and reflective middleware. Building off RM2000, an earlier workshop at Middleware 2000, this workshop will report on the progress in adaptive and reflective middleware, and will codify the research and development problems.

The Middleware for Grid Computing workshop looks into grid middleware in light of other middleware activities, attracting contributions from various middleware traditions, such as classic grid and object-oriented or componentized. Open grid service architectures and Web services are also topics.

http://www.eecg.toronto.edu/middleware2004/

e-Financial World Expo

14-15 Sept. 2004
Toronto

Representatives from insurance companies, banks, and financial institutions will be among the presenters at this conference, showing attendees how to tackle financial technology issues and improve business strategies. The conference and exposition will inform attendees about technological issues surrounding Internet-enabled data centers, host applications, and campus networks.

Conference topics include e-banking, electronic bill presentation and payment (EBPP), online trading, risk management, financial-services convergence, middleware, document management, outsourcing, regulatory compliance, and standards.

Attendees can hear information on topics such as e-insurance, real-time enterprise, and business process outsourcing (BPO).

http://www.efworldexpo.wowgao.com
Oasis
http://www.oasis-open.org/home/index.php

Oasis (Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards) is an international consortium focusing on the development, convergence, and adoption of e-business standards. Members set the Oasis technical agenda, using an open process to promote industry consensus and unite disparate efforts. The consortium produces Web services standards along with standards for security, e-business, the public sector, and application-specific markets.

The not-for-profit consortium hosts two of the information portals on XML and Web services standards. Oasis member sections include UDDI (universal description, discovery, and integration), CGM Open, LegalXML, and PKI (public-key infrastructure).

Oasis began in 1993 under the name SGML Open, as a consortium of vendors and users that developed guidelines for interoperability among products that support SGML, the Standard Generalized Markup Language.

Data Interchange Standards Association
http://www.disa.org

The Data Interchange Standards Association (DISA) is home for the development of cross-industry electronic business interchange standards.

Established as a not-for-profit organization, DISA provides standards and specifications support for ASC X12, and the X12 EDI and XML standards development process.

Through DISA's affiliate services division, the group provides technical and administrative support to e-business, standards, and XML specification-development organizations. DISA also publishes technical reports and implementation guides.

DISA and ASC X12 serve as the entry point for the International EDI process. DISA hosts standards-setting and global e-business networking forums.

Get access
to individual IEEE Computer Society documents online.

More than 100,000 articles and conference papers available!

$9US per article for members

$19US for nonmembers

www.computer.org/publications/dlib