

XML  Broadly Connecting Canadian IT managers through Career, Industry, and Technology insight**This Blog**

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Canada's Association of Information Technology (IT) Professionals

**Resident Bloggers**

Stephen Ibaraki
Industry Analyst
FCIPS, I.S.P., DFNPA, CNP,
MVP

**Looming IT Skills Shortage**

I participated in a survey and two focus group sessions sponsored by the SHRC and CATA. My lasting impressions: there's a "right" skills shortage now and insufficient numbers to meet our future demands around 2010. This is a serious situation since Canada lags in productivity and this is attributable to lower ICT penetration in businesses supported by qualified IS workers.

What do I mean by the "right" skills? There is no question, there are unemployed IT workers. The key here is that businesses are looking for IT professionals with multiple deep skills sets combined with relationship, communication, core process, industry acumen and solid business knowledge. The requirements have changed and this will become even more pronounced for the future. What are the colleges and universities doing about this? How about employers—are they providing the necessary skills development and training? What about internationally trained workers where assessing qualifications can be a challenge; cultural and language issues present added barriers?

It's our responsibility to raise these issues and to seek solutions. I would be interested in hearing your thoughts on this or send me an e-mail at sibarak@cps.ca.

Thank you,
Stephen Ibaraki, FCIPS, I.S.P.

Published Friday, September 08, 2006 7:10 AM by [cdnimg](#)
Filed Under: [Industry Perspectives](#), [Stephen Ibaraki](#), [Guest Bloggers](#)

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Comments**# myITforum Daily Newsletter; September 8, 2006**

Friday, September 08, 2006 11:17 AM by [myITforum Newsletters](#)

myITforum Daily Newsletter Daily Newsletter September 8, 2006 The myITforum.com newsletter is delivered

re: Looming IT Skills Shortage

Friday, September 08, 2006 9:19 PM by Jockel

I agree that Canada has an IT staff problem. I moved to Canada and started on the IT Career path in the Maritimes in the late 80's and early 90's. After several years of learning, study, testing out on MS products and building a career I could not earn enough to keep my family comfortable. I returned to the US and doubled my income in the very first position.

I have gone on to several years of progressive experience in many technologies and ever larger corporate environments. I completed my Bachelor and earned a Master in Information Technology along the way.

We would love to move back to Canada for social and political reasons but there just don't seem to be the same quality or quantity of opportunities that are offered in the US.

If Canadian employers really want to solve the IT staff problem they need to let folks like me know they take the staff shortage seriously.

re: Looming IT Skills Shortage

Saturday, September 09, 2006 2:23 PM by [Teri](#)

These are good questions. Many of those working in technology are not looking ahead or planning for the future. Ultimately this will stall their careers. I see it all the time.

What do you think?

Title *(required)*



Barnaby Jeans
IT Pro Advisor
Microsoft Canada

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John Oxley
Director Community
Evangelism
Microsoft Canada



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