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This Blog

About
Email

Jul	August 2006					Sep
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Search **Go**

Archives

- September 2006 (9)
- August 2006 (26)
- July 2006 (25)
- June 2006 (36)
- May 2006 (29)
- April 2006 (30)
- March 2006 (39)
- February 2006 (41)
- January 2006 (26)
- December 2005 (26)
- November 2005 (8)
- October 2005 (6)
- September 2005 (2)
- August 2005 (7)

News

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XNA Game Studio Express - Windows and XBOX Gaming: Energizing Computing Science Curriculum

The Challenge of Declining Computer Science Enrollment

I participated in a special meeting with the largest computer societies globally where [CIPS](#) [Canada's association and community of IT professionals] received an invitation. It is interesting how there are common challenges such as declining enrollment in computer science. One of my impressions from the summit: gaming provided solutions and represented a growing area. [Note: I will be sharing my other takeaways in future blogs from this summit.]

I did a [podcast](#) on this topic of declining enrollment too with HM College President [Maria Klawe](#), an ACM and founding [CIPS Fellow](#). Moreover, this was a hot topic for Bill in his [faculty summit](#) that he held in 2005 and took the stage with Maria.

There's a Solution!

I saw this news item in [ITBusiness.ca](#) that provides a great solution. The [XNA Game Studio Express from Microsoft](#) will be available as a free download to allow universities to add full-fledged gaming to their curriculum. For a modest \$99US annual fee, participants can share and test the games online. Student teams could work on the latest computing technologies and practices and see their work expressed in real time. As a result, the University of Waterloo, and the University of Western Ontario are planning to add XNA Express to their curriculum and soon.

What a great idea and fun too! I see this as a practical solution to energize students into computing.

Cheers,
Stephen Ibaraki, FCIPS, I.S.P.

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Navigation

- [Home](#)
- [Photos](#)

Post Categories

- [Adam Cole \(7\)](#)
- [Career Tips \(8\)](#)
- [CC Blogged Down \(25\)](#)
- [CIPS \(4\)](#)
- [David Canton \(4\)](#)
- [DJ Dunkerley \(5\)](#)
- [Downloads \(6\)](#)
- [Events \(24\)](#)
- [Graham Jones \(26\)](#)
- [Guest Bloggers \(166\)](#)
- [Industry Perspectives \(19\)](#)
- [Interviews \(50\)](#)
- [IT Manager Interviews \(4\)](#)
- [Jacqueline Hutchinson \(4\)](#)
- [Jing Chen \(2\)](#)
- [Live Services \(4\)](#)
- [Mitch Tulloch \(4\)](#)
- [MS News \(27\)](#)
- [Newswire \(2\)](#)
- [Partners \(1\)](#)

Remember Me?

Stephen Ibaraki (135)

Training (4)

Val Matison (4)
