



Volume 1, No. 4 May 2018

Welcome Back

By Charles E. Whitaker

Before I get into the overview as to what the *Cyber Sentinel eLetter* is all about, for those of you who are unfamiliar, I would first like to express that in addition to the information about the employment picture, which is discussed in this section, there is a real need to get a little more in-depth about technology; primarily because there are major changes underway that we all must pay attention to, especially as it pertains to our business endeavors, so we'll get into this in due course.

One of my goals is to publish the *Cyber Sentinel eLetter* more often than just periodically because I believe there is much more to convey more often. To that end, past and present issues are available on my website as well as my LinkedIn or Facebook pages, whichever you prefer.

The economic climate has been improving at a more rapid pace and continues to do so. Meanwhile, I'm seeing that there is still a tremendous demand for employment from a vast cross section of job seekers, which really isn't surprising given personal aspirations and perhaps past accomplishments. Many realize that they must be even more diligent when it comes to ensuring that their well-being is secure and that their futures are intact. They realize that they must be more unwavering and proactive as they work toward their personal and professional goals. I am heartened by this mindset because it is evident that they will be successful and will work aggressively toward improving their lives.

Breakthroughs in Employment – Employment remains the order of the day; breakthroughs continue in this regard, which are beginning to expand. Anecdotal evidence has reflected that the economy is approaching full employment, with the unemployment rate at just above four percent. As you know, many companies are either raising the pay of their workers or issuing bonuses as a result of the recent tax cuts or other political dynamics. Many of my clients have raised the level of employment in which they're seeking and are aiming high or higher to achieve their goals. As they begin the employment process and feed-back is received from recruiters and hiring managers, their interest is piqued that much more because they see that they're dealing with a real live person on the receiving end of their resume and cover letter correspondence, who are anxious to schedule interviews.

Once the interview is scheduled, the coaching and mentoring process intensifies so that the candidate is fully prepared, with the emphasis being focused on performance. This aspect of the process is very positive and stimulating, however, there are other obstacles that the job seeker must always be mindful of that could adversely affect their candidacy.

1. The first concern, depending upon the length of unemployment is addressed in the links below:

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/terrifying-reality-long-term-unemployment-154818305.html>

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/27/your-money/unemployed-and-older-and-facing-a-jobless-future.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

2. The next concern regarding interview questions are explained in the links that follow:

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/worst-questions-job-interviewers-ask-134346984.html>

https://news.efinancialcareers.com/us-en/213388/70-top-banking-interview-questions-and-how-to-answer-them/?_ga=2.262029389.1500897669.1524410362-1715555510.1478032480

The tips from the topTECHjobs Careers newsletter dated - 04/05/2016 (formerly Net Temps), lends itself to some of these difficult questions and situations. There are other timely articles that are just as important. Keep in mind that the subscription to this newsletter is free, so it pays to become a subscriber; you can't go wrong.

There are usually recurring themes (i.e., cover letters, resumes, interviewing, on-line correspondence, etc.), the topTECHjobs newsletter deals with all of these subjects and more, driving home the importance of all of these points. Even if you've read these issues before, it's still a good idea to revisit them often; consider it invaluable career reference material. topTECHjobs can be found on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter.

These topTECHjobs newsletter series contain some of the most important aspects of what job seekers should know when pursuing employment today. We are all well aware that the job market has changed drastically, and we must adapt to those changes in order to be successful. Entry-level as well as seasoned professionals can take something away that will enhance their employment prospects.

You should not only read them, you should study them and then put them into practice. If you were consulting, you would interview often, it is part of the process. It's not just your technical skills that land you that project or position, but also your ability to interview well and display those other skills as well. In closing, make it a point to thoroughly familiarize yourselves with these techniques, you'll find that they do work if you use them. ■

Leveling the Playing Field

By Jim Rogerson

USB technology has become the storage medium of choice for many, many computer users. They can be obtained in 2GB, 4GB, 8GB, 16GB, 32GB and Terabyte units, sold by various carriers. These devices can serve many purposes in that they alleviate storing all of your data on the hard drive (**designated by C: or auxiliary hard drives**), are portable and they possess the capability to perform some processing functions as well. A common practice is to create your files on your Laptop using the USB and then print them from a workstation. In this instance, users can really appreciate the portability factor. These devices offer much flexibility.



Back in early January 2013, the Consumer Electronic Show held in Las Vegas, Nevada hosting the event, featured one company in particular participating in the show - Kingston Digital, who was promoting their latest version of flash drive that can store a Terabyte of data. The link listed below gives more detail about this device, its description, its capabilities and the price:

<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/09/c-e-s-2013-in-a-compact-container-a-terabyte-of-storage/>

Featured above is a typical USB device loaded in the port of a Laptop computer; after using, be sure to unload them properly to ensure long life and avoid data access problems. USB Tethering is yet another function of this device; through the USB, your Smart phone becomes an Internet Hot Spot; also, pay close attention to the unloading of the device, it's extremely important. You've probably used or are using these devices already and are familiar with how to handle them.

Of course, USB storage devices are now in wide spread use; there is also the auxiliary hard drive configured in Terabyte units, which gives you even more storage capacity. Now there is also Cloud technology which has become the state-of-the-art when it comes to data storage. I'm sure that there are those of you who are either considering or actually using this technology for your storage purposes if of course there is justification for it, which gives you even more storage capability.

New Technology – Most of you are probably familiar with and may already own or are using some of this new technology, such as: “Crypto” Currency (Bitcoin), Blockchain, Fintech, Machine Learning, and Laser Technology. 3D Printing, which has been around for quite some time and has also been found to be extremely effective in the imaging and structuring of certain products and many other business-related uses.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): a good example of this is the movie –2001 A Space Odyssey by Stanley Kubrick, circa 1968 featuring the HAL 9000 - an acronym that stands for (Heuristically programmed ALgorithmic) AI and onboard computer on the Discover 1 spacecraft. The problem with HAL was that it wasn't supposed to think for itself to the extent that it did and turned out to be a detriment to his fellow astronauts; which is a major concern to many as this topic gains more interest and popularity. In essence, the robot can think for itself and take over. This is not supposed to happen, right?!

The Tesla driverless car is another example of the inroads that technology is making in addition to some of its adverse effects. Of course, the kinks are still being worked out. There have been problems that has slowed its further testing. The death of a cyclist in Tempe, Arizona who was struck by an Uber self-driving prototype that was in autonomous mode with an Uber driver in the vehicle, perhaps could have been avoided. As a result, Uber is halting its test program following the accident. ■

PERSPECTIVES

Profile of a Dedicated Professional

This department is reserved for the professional in an industry other than Information Technology, where they may have minimal exposure to technology, yet technology plays a major role in their day-to-day operations. It is intended to shed light on other professions and industries that you may be or become interested in. In this piece, I would like to introduce a professional whose work ethic, drive and tenacity have enabled him to become in a very short period of time one of the most recognized, resourceful and productive members of his team. He was unable to submit the input for this article, which is what I prefer, so I'm writing this piece in the third person; more of a profile.



Here are some noteworthy characteristics about this individual. For starters, his appearance is always neat and crisp; his approach to his work is organized and precise; he possesses a keen focus and exerts one hundred percent effort when performing his duties. He consistently displays a professional and positive attitude, takes pride in his work at all times and does not deviate from this demeanor. He has quickly become a leader in this department, providing leadership for the more junior members of his shift as well as setting the example with his management.

You can probably surmise from the graphic used for this article the industry in which this individual is employed. That's right, he is employed by a major airline carrier, who is considered to be an industry leader and who has opened new markets world-wide. The type of work that this individual does is very precise and calls for very few errors or mistakes. His department is constantly looking for ways to improve service or day-to-day operations and as a by product, improve productivity. Needless to say, the work is very demanding and calls for *“paying attention to detail!”* Mistakes must be kept to a minimum so that there are as few problems as possible enabling established time related industry standards to be maintained. This fellow has many interests outside of work and is now looking to pursue other aspects of life that interest him. He is constantly looking for ways to grow and is an avid reader. ■

Cyber-Links

In this column, I usually like to discuss events taking place over the Internet. I will now be utilizing this section to bring about news of the firm's business and what we are doing going forward, in addition to how we're using technology to maximize our advantage in the marketplace.

We believe that these are exciting times, albeit challenging in the sense that there are many opportunities in which to avail ourselves and our constituents by performing the necessary due diligence to bring about a better understanding of market conditions so that we can better formulate strategies.

Smart phone technology (either Apple or Android) offers numerous advantages with respect to how businesses are using them to communicate, inform, make announcements, conduct meetings, etc.; including having the phone serve as an Internet hot spot!

For all of you Smart phone users, I'm sure that you find them to be useful tools that serve numerous purposes. ■

Career Corner

The job interview, one of the most important aspects of the entire job searching process.

First of all, to get that call to come in for an interview is very stimulating because we know that we have made a major breakthrough because of our credentials and the way that we presented them. Perhaps you've had an initial telephone interview and have made such an impression that the employer now wants to meet you in person.

Prior to the interview, learn your resume and familiarize yourself with most if not all of your major accomplishments; things that may have brought about a raise, promotion or some other form of recognition. The more prepared you are, the better. If you find yourself groping for words, you won't look sharp and may not be considered for anything further. So, make certain that you are fully prepared and conversant.

When companies are growing, they're always looking to hire; they need workers. There are numerous employment opportunities offered periodically, primarily because of a company's growth projections.

If these are your interests, then keep yourself in a position to be prepared for the next opportunity; it could be you. ■

Did You Know...?

That as of April 28, 2015 NetTemps.com, one of the employment oriented cornerstones of this e-letter has merged with topTECHjobs.com a leading niche board for IT and Engineering professionals; their **CROSSROADS** jobseeker newsletter will be published under a new brand. ■

Logging Off...

...until next time; remember to send your inquiries, comments or suggestions to: cybersentinel0717@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you. ■

*** *Be Well* ***

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