BLOGGED DOWN

"As IT managers and professionals, you have a unique forum to connect broadly, obtaining the latest information in a dynamic exchange, collectively collaborating, looking ahead, learning and engaging with noted experts."

— Roger Sessions
Founder and CEO
OjbectWatch Inc.

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VISIT THE CANADIAN IT MANAGERS BLOG:

http://blogs.technet.com/cdnitmanagers/

The year of the job hunter

The unfolding of a new year is a time for reflection — a psychological checking in with ourselves to see if we're on track to achieving our goals. Many resolve to rid themselves of bad habits, while others take on initiatives they hope will

result in positive changes in some area of their lives.

For many people, this change comes in the form of a new job, and if you're an IT professional considering a career move, 2006 may be a banner year for you.

Before the holidays, several surveys landed on my desk heralding 2006 as the year of the job hunter (*see also the article on p. 18*).

CNC Global, one of the country's leading recruitment firms for IT professionals, indicates the demand for permanent IT staff has outpaced that of contract workers and now represents 30 per cent of demand across the country. The recruiter also notes hiring was up four per cent in the third quarter of 2005, the best showing for Q3 in the past three years.

Another report, this one from Mercer Human Resource Consulting, indicates employers across the IT industry are projecting average salary increases of 3.4 per cent for 2006, a welcome sign after several years of no increases for many.

You'll notice we too have made a few changes with the premiere issue of 2006.

Firstly, we're launching a column from veteran IT pundit Peter deJager. A familiar face to many of our long-time readers, deJager is best-known for his commentary on all matters Y2K. In his new column, deJager will provide strategies for dealing with the climate of constant change in today's business. We look forward to hearing your responses to his commentaries.

And now that our 30th anniversary year has come and gone, we also bid farewell to the trivia challenge we ran in 2005. Congratulations to Joe Halas of Calgary, who was randomly selected from an overwhelming number of entries as the winner of the Toshiba PocketPC. Replacing IT-rivial Pursuits will be Blogged Down, a provocative quote from a leading IT authority whose full interview can be found on the Canadian IT Managers' Blog at http://blogs.technet.com/cdnitmanagers. The interviews are conducted by Stephen

Ibaraki, veteran industry analyst and *Computing Canada's* Lifetime Achievement Award recipient in 2005.

During the course of the year, readers told us they wanted to learn more about vendors' and service providers' corporate vision. To that end, we're introducing Executive Perspectives, an indepth interview with a leading Canadian IT executive to run in every other issue. Launching the series is a conversation with Greg Davis, president and general manager of Dell Canada, who says his company has big plans for expansion in the Canadian market (*see story on p. 6*).

As always, we'd love to hear your thoughts on the new additions to *CC*, as well as on the reports suggesting the time has come again where IT types have their choice of jobs. Do the surveys' finding reflect your reality, or are you feeling hemmed in and without options for progressing in your career? Write to us at *ccedit@itbusiness.ca*.

A happy and fulfilling new year to everyone.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT
Computing Canada and yourself are to be praised for highlighting and profiling the great IT work that is completed in our own backyard (*see IT Leadership Awards, Dec. 16 CC, p. 28*). The awards are a welcome part of promoting ourselves — among ourselves.

I also take this opportunity to set the record straight. In your editorial, "A recipe for rising to the top" you state "CC's Project Team of the Year, led by RBC Financials Dennis McPeak and Stephen Caldwell . . ." In fact the project was broken down into a number of smaller projects or sub projects. Both Stephen and I each led one of those sub projects and co-managed another. The project leadership role was established with a strong governance model. The project's steering committee and the project's business advisory board, consisting of repre-

sentatives from all areas affected, guided the project. They met weekly to review the project status and facilitate staying on track. The weekly executive status summary was their key communication tool.

Though Stephen and I participated in the team leadership it must be recognized that we were not alone.

May I also say, thank you to the IT Leadership Award judges for this award and congratulations to the award winners in the other categories and to all the "Project Team of the Year" members — your work was outstanding.

Dennis McPeak
Enterprise General Ledger
Finance Solutions,
RBC Financial Group

MEMORIES OF Y2K
As I enjoyed the new year my thoughts went back to the turn of the century — the evening we all waited to see what Y2K was going to do. I recalled the issue of *Computing Canada* in which you gave some much deserved recognition for Peter de Jager and the leading role he played in bringing

the world to the point where it began to do something about the Y2K threat. de Jager was savaged by much of the media who assumed he was out to make a buck.

Fortunately the IT people who understand what those legacy systems actually do paid attention and a major disaster was averted.

The world owes de Jager a thank you — and a couple of thousand programmers should also say thanks for all the overtime.
Westall H. Parr II
Toronto, Ont.

WHO'S IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT?
IT has allowed people to do things that were previously somewhere between impossible and impracticable — no question (*Anatomy of a boiled frog, Oct. 28 CC, p. 12*). But, like fire and nuclear devices you have to remember who is the master.
In China, I understand, it is illegal to have games that run for more than three hours because people have played games until they have hurt themselves. Basically the laws of physics apply. You pay a price for the advance you achieve.
Steve Mathews
via e-mail