

A Note from Tom Silver

The recession is spurring many companies to cut back on their full-time workforces. On Dice, contractor positions now constitute 44 percent of the job market, compared to 40 percent 12 months ago. One result: A number of tech professionals are examining the idea of working for themselves, whether they want to or not.

Certainly, many are taking on contracting assignments as a way to make some money while they look for full time jobs. But others are considering, perhaps for the first time, the idea that self-employment is their next logical career move.

For some IT professionals, being a contract worker can be liberating: They can approach work more on their own terms, free of office politics and set work hours. They may be able to make more money on an hourly rate, and focus on the technologies they most enjoy working with.

Where contracting requires a different mindset is in the realm of business, not technology. Success requires budding entrepreneurs to honestly examine what makes them tick. They need to decide not only whether their skills are marketable, but whether they're capable of doing the marketing. They have to be able to manage their time, because maintaining relationships and looking for the next assignment are as vital to their bottom line as are billable hours. They need to be self-disciplined – not only so they sit down and get their work done, but so they keep up with certifications and changes in technology.

In short, contracting isn't simply another way of approaching a technology career. It's creating a small business. Contractors work hard, with the added pressures that go along with independence. But for IT professionals who go into it with their eyes open, contracting can lay the foundation for a dynamic, exciting career.

Enjoy this issue of the Dice Report.

Tom Silver
Senior Vice President,
Chief Marketing Officer

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Dice by the Numbers

As of May 1, 2009*

Available Tech Jobs: 49,016

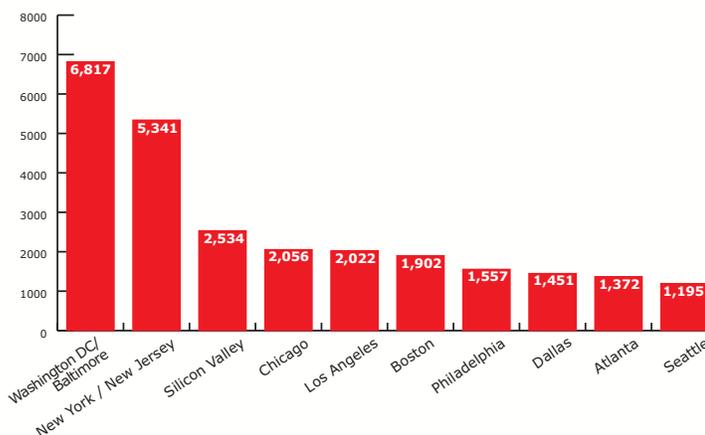
Full-time Positions: 30,039

Contract Positions: 21,742

Part-time Positions: 1,040

Top Tech Metro Areas

Based on number of jobs posted by zip code on Dice as of May 1, 2009*



Top Tech Skills

Based on number of jobs posted by tech skill on Dice as of May 1, 2009*

Operating Systems

1. Windows – 8,445
2. Unix – 6,997

Databases

1. Oracle – 9,119
2. SQL – 7,389

Programming Languages

1. C, C++, C# – 9,354
2. J2EE/Java – 8,676

Dice.com Tech Topic Poll

If you were laid off, would you consider starting a small business?

40% Yes, I don't have much choice.

23% Yes, but I want to see if the economy improves.

37% No. It's too risky in this climate.

* A single job posting may reflect more than one skill, location or type of position; therefore, total figures for these attributes may be greater than total jobs posted.