

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Six Years . . . and Counting

By Douglas E. Welch

This column marks the beginning of my seventh year writing about high-tech career issues for *ComputerEdge*. In those years, I have seen some things change but, for better or worse, even more remains the same. The Internet bubble burst and reminded us all that business, work and career are about developing value over time, and not some mad sweepstakes gamble. High-tech workers still struggle for respect despite their ability to create new commercial markets out of nothing but their own creativity. It seems that, despite the clear benefits of technology, and those who make it work, high-tech workers have to justify their existence nearly every day on nearly every job.

This month I am offering a look back on some important columns of the past that have proven very popular with readers and/or still offer an important message today. Let me know if you have your favorite column from the past and why it was important to you. More important, drop me an e-mail today with your questions and comments about this column or your career. Your ideas could become the source of columns for this seventh year.

The Right Way to Resign—November 1998, <http://welchwrite.com/dewelch/ce/ce9811.html>

The way you leave a job can be just as important as how you start. Don't burn bridges, but ensure that you get everything that is owed to you. Here are some important guidelines to remember when it is time to move on.

Is It Really That Bad?—February 1998, <http://welchwrite.com/dewelch/ce/ce9802.html>

Abuse in the workplace is a demon that almost everyone faces at some time in their career. It can take many forms, from abuse of overtime and flaunting of labor laws to outright mental and physical abuse. No one has to accept such behavior in the workplace.

Career Compass—January 1999, <http://welchwrite.com/dewelch/ce/ce9901.html>

How do you know what career you want unless you do some very hard thinking first? Once you have established a direction for your career, how do you make sure that everything you are doing—each job, each task, each promotion—keeps you headed in the right direction?

Résumés—February 1999, <http://welchwrite.com/dewelch/ce/ce9902.html>

Most of the conventional wisdom about résumés isn't very conventional anymore. If you want your résumé to

stand out, you need to tell a good story. In fact, you need to tell quite a few. Your résumé has one goal—to entice the reader to bring you in for an interview. Telling a good story is one of the best ways to accomplish this goal.

How to Make Mistakes—February 2, 2001, <http://welchwrite.com/dewelch/ce/ce010202.asp>

Mistakes happen. There is no way to avoid them. How you handle your mistakes, though, can immediately and directly affect your job and career. Attempting to cover up your mistakes can lead directly to the loss of your job. Instead, take ownership of your mistakes and fix them. Sometimes the way you fix a mistake can enhance your career more than if you had never made the mistake in the first place.

Keep It to Yourself—February 23, 2001, <http://welchwrite.com/dewelch/ce/ce010223.asp>

There are some stories that shouldn't be shared with your co-workers or your employer. Think about the image you are presenting before you start telling everyone about that drunken weekend or office romance.

All As One—September 21, 2001, <http://welchwrite.com/dewelch/ce/ce010921.asp>

September 11 was an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to building a better world, a better life and a better career. Have you actively tried to make your world a better place?

How to Take a Vacation—May 1999, <http://welchwrite.com/dewelch/ce/ce990514.html>

Part of developing a great career is knowing when you need some time off. Some companies can make it difficult, if not impossible, for their workers to take a stress-free vacation that allows them to recharge. It is possible, though, and here are a few ways to make sure your vacation (and your return) is the best possible.

Say Yes!—February 14, 2003, <http://welchwrite.com/dewelch/ce/2003/ce030214.asp>

The best way to enhance your relationship with a client is to actively find ways of saying "Yes" more often. It is time to become less of a "gatekeeper" and more of a facilitator to help your clients get the most productivity from their technology.

As I read back over these columns, sometimes I surprise even myself. Everything looks different over time, but I think in each of these columns is a kernel of truth that still resonates today, long after it was originally written.

Book of the week: Building Your Own Garage: Blueprints and Tools to Unleash Your Company's Hidden Creativity, by Bernd H. Schmitt and Laura Brown □