Job Research

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Introduction

I am taking the approach of looking for my next IT job vs. my initial one since I have been in a variety of IT positions over the past 10-15 years. My aspirations for a position have changed dramatically since I entered back into school in 2007 and now look to complete my degree this Winter. Initially I was looking for a project management positions within IT, but then I started to become more specific to either security or infrastructure. When I use “Computer Science” to look positions up, I get a range based on the site I use. Dice, Monster, GlassDoor tend to give me positions with a vast range in function. Business Systems analysts, Project Managers, Programmers, Windows Administrators, etc. I utilized the major sites simply because they have the most postings. I also want to make sure that any position I choose isn’t limiting in terms of commute, offers telecommute, work life balance is a major benefit I also look for. I am looking for more leadership roles as I have built my experience on learning how to engineer, I feel I can help organizations with some of the difficulties of managing in technical areas.

The three positions I chose to look into are Systems Engineer 3, Technical Account Manager with Microsoft and a Software development Project manager. Searching computer science brought up all of these positions. I had to start to drill down to specifics since I am more of a consultative, customer service oriented person when I am working. I want a job where I can directly assist my customers, whether they are internal to the company I work for or external.

The Jobs

Systems Engineer 3 – Dice

* Title – Systems Engineer
* Employer – Metropolitan Council
* Location – St..Paul, MN
* Skills – Cisco Prime, Cisco Networking, Wireless, Network monitoring, Supporting VPN and Managing corporate anti-virus. Phone Systems and related software
* Soft Skills- Team building, solve high level problems, consult on direction of services.
* Degrees or Certs . BA preferred but not necessary
* Experience – BA and 5 years’ experience, 7 Years and AA degree, 9 years of experience with no degree at all.
* Travel – No mentioned travel
* Telecommute – No mentioned
* Salary – Hiring between 72-82K Job tops out about 110K over time.
* URL’s located in References

Microsoft Technical Account Manager- MSFT Site

* Title – Technical Account Manager
* Employer – Microsoft
* Location – Bloomington, MN
* Skills – Skills within certain areas of the Microsoft product line. Knowledge of the Operating systems, SQL, Active directory and the roles it plays, Azure, Security concepts.
* Soft Skills – Change Agent, articulate with helping customers decide direction, first line of support. Interface with high level employees. Although not in sales, your jobs are in part to help sell the Microsoft vision where it fits for the customers. Organization, passion for the technology and keep abreast of emerging tech.
* Degrees/Certs – Bachelor’s Degree Required
* Experience - 3 years of demonstrated Enterprise support
* Travel – Local travel and conferences, like Ignite.
* Telecommute - Yes
* Salary – Not mentioned
* URL’s in References

Software Development Project Manager

* Title – Software Development Project Manager
* Employer – UHG
* Location – Eden Prairie
* Skills – Previous software management experience, 3 years. Project, Excel, Visio and PowerPoint use. Understand SDLC communication and collaborations skills.
* Soft Skills – Coaching, provide feedback to other P. M’s.
* Degree/certs – College degree not necessary, equivalent experience will suffice
* Experience - 3 years of management of software based initiatives
* Travel – NA
* Telecommute – NA
* Salary – NA
* URL’s in references.

Conclusion

During my research it was interesting to see how many jobs were completely different from the title of what I thought they may have been, when using computer science as a search option. I have always gravitated toward Sales/Service jobs although I enjoy engineering as well. The position I would most like to obtain and is one of the reasons I am completing my degree is the Microsoft Technical Account manager position in their Premier area. I absorb technology and I’ve really gained the soft skill set to not take things too personally any longer. It’s allowed me to help people through difficult challenges at work so I would like to expound on that skill in a larger company. I speak with executives at my own company and others quite often and have performed presentations and understand the language they speak. I don’t always agree with how executives make decisions but it’s my role to help them make an informed decision and leave it at that. There are so many jobs out there and it’s strange how the job ads all look like they are looking for the holy grail employee. The CCNA, CISSP, MCSE/D with 15 years of PowerShell experience (Yes, I’ve seen ads pre-dating the creation of some technologies.) I think my last point is the most critical when looking for an IT job. Research the company and make sure to bring questions about the job posting to the interview. Don’t make assumptions because there are cases when you may want to decline a job due to information about expectations and duties. If a job seems too good to be true, it usually is. I hope to interview with Microsoft this winter as I have been cultivating a working relationship with some people out of the local office for years. It seems like the right challenge for me and my family.

References

1. https://www.dice.com/jobs/detail/Systems-Engineer-3-Metropolitan-Council-Saint-Paul-MN-55101/RTX153baf/674563?icid=sr29-1p&q=Computer Science&l=55068
2. <http://jobview.monster.com/v2/job/View?JobID=171984552&MESCOID=1700190001001&jobPosition=5>
3. <https://www.glassdoor.com/job-listing/technical-account-manager-microsoft-JV_IC1162257_KO0,25_KE26,35.htm?jl=1938397196>