COMPUTER TRAINING JOB

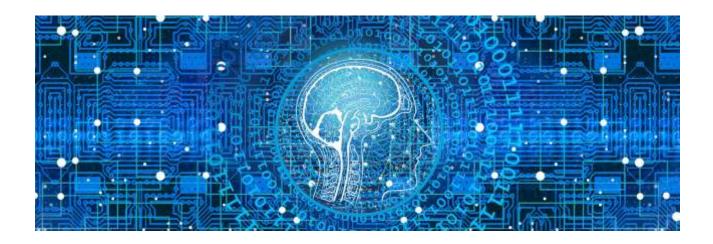## START YOUR IT CAREER

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Online Computer Training

You've decided that it's time to join the 21st century, or perhaps you're simply looking to brush up on your skills. Either way, it is time to get some computer training, and you are looking at all of your options. One of the most popular options available today for getting training of any kind (computer training included) is the Internet.

Online computer training is one of the easiest and most convenient methods of training available, provided you have a good Internet connection. In fact, it is probably a good idea to have a high speed Internet connection such as DSL or cable service in order to get the most out of this method of training. While a few training sites will work with the standard dial-up service speed, most will not. Add that to the fact that many people who are on dial-up do not achieve the maximum FCC allowed speed of 56 kbps, but average something much slower. That being said, if you've got a good, high-speed service, you are ready to sign up for some online computer training!

Online computer training usually consists of several features that appeal to the person wanting to learn from home. One such feature is that you are on your own schedule. Usually there is not a specific time of the day or day of the week that you are required to do your learning or testing. However, there is usually a time limit for completing the course, especially if it is training that you have paid for. The resources and any reference materials from the course are only available while you are training and /or testing, and cannot usually be accessed after the expiration date of your training or subscription.

Materials are presented in many different ways as well. Some online computer training sites have quite a bit of information available for study as e-books in the almost universal PDF format. This format from Adobe has been popularized mainly because of its wide adaptability to different operating systems and computing platforms. It will work with the PC running almost any version of Windows, as well as the Macintosh from Apple. In addition to e-books, a lot of training sites take advantage of the broadband revolution by presenting material in various video formats. This is one of the principle reasons why it is recommended that you have broadband Internet access if you are going to take advantage of online computer training.

Another way to take advantage of online training is to locate training that may be available for free. There are many forums and websites that will present information that will provide great online computer training. This information is free, but it is up to you to dig in and learn. This type of 'training' is best utilized by those who are self-starters, motivated to teach themselves as much as they can by reading and researching the vast array of material available online. There have been many cases of people who are self-taught using this method to learn everything from HTML and CSS to how to build a computer.

Online Computer Training And The US Armed Forces

Today's military is on the leading edge of technology. Leaders in the US Armed Forces have long recognized that a trained soldier is a good soldier. Along with this: a good soldier is a happy soldier; a happy soldier is a retained soldier. With advances in technology, and the advent of the internet, it was only a matter of time before the military would come online. Due to this steadfast belief, the military evolved. If mother necessity were the mother of invention, then education was the necessity. Military members now have access to advanced training and other educational materials through online computer training.

In the military of old, training was conducted primarily in a classroom environment: no online computer training whatsoever. The alternative to classroom instruction was correspondence courses. While some training requires the student to be under direct supervision of the trainer: other's don't. To alleviate this, the military designed correspondence courses. Each correspondence course had attached a pre-test and a final test: the member would mail in the pre-test and receive a final exam to complete and return. Correspondence courses alleviated the stress put upon training commands and allowed students to study at their own pace. At the time, this was a boon to the military and it's personnel. Problems arose with this program, though. Problems such as lost or misrouted mail often prevented members from obtaining much needed certificates. The course completion certificate was considered the only proof required for course completion. Also, the certificate often served as a substitute for training requirements. In addition to this, certificates were the only requirement for obtaining points toward promotion. With the aforementioned problem came personnel problems. Personnel problems were an issue that if not solved expediently added to retention problems. The military recognized this issue and determined to do something about it.

Another issue faced by military members of the past was obtaining a college degree. Members were often deployed or stationed in locations where access to college was not possible. Due to this problem, members attempting to obtain a degree had issues with continuity of their education. A simple change from one duty station to another created problems also: one college not accepting another colleges curriculum. Eventually, the military recognized both problems and determined that providing military members to online computer training would benefit everyone.

Nowadays, on any military installation one can find an 'internet cafй'. These locations were established to serve the member with the opportunity to access the internet. Internet access

provided the opportunity for accessing online computer training. Members now access courses that were previously offered only through correspondence. Through online computer training, members can now complete an online degree no matter where they are on the globe. That is, of course, provided that they can access the internet. Generally the only places that have problems with internet connectivity are submarines, yet with technology advancing that may not be a problem for long.

And the problem with correspondence courses? Online computer training resolved all of that. Members now have instant access to completion certificates. Certificates lead to points, and points lead to promotions. All of these combined makes a trained, retainable soldier. Therefore, online computer training has helped keep the US Armed Forces truly a force to be reckoned with.

Online Computer Training - Education At Your Fingertips

With the advent of the internet came online gaming, dating, mail (Email), auctioning and many other forms of commerce. One major step was making online computer training available. Today there are many sites dedicated solely to computer training. The US Military has gone so far as to make classroom learning available to it's members through online computer training. There are countless member of the US Armed Forces on a daily basis connecting to the internet and taking online computer courses. The military has gone so far as to take the majority of their

military related training and put it online. Members either take online computer training to earn points toward a promotion or their degree. They do this from different points across the globe - even while at sea. In this way a soldier stationed in a foreign country doesn't lose the opportunity to obtain a college education. Also, there are numerous military bases that have set up 'internet cafes' for this purpose. From these locations, those without their own personal computer (PC) are also provided the opportunity to participate in online computer training.

Not only are the US Armed Forces taking advantage of this capability. Persons involved in shift-work such as police officers, and firemen take advantage of online computer training. A typical police officer working a 12 hour shift often find it difficult to obtain traditional education due to their schedule. Through online computer training, this problem is alleviated. Often online computer training can be found to be less expensive than classroom training, thereby eliminating an additional financial burden.

It has long been established that there are three methods in which a person learns: listening, reading, hands-on, or a combination of any three. Computer training takes advantage of listening, and reading. Hands-on, is simply not an option. Online computer training is especially helpful with taking courses directly related to computers. There is a plethora of different computer training courses available online: learning a foreign language, writing courses, computer courses, degrees, certifications and more.

A Google search for online computer training opportunities results in numerous online institutions. Not only institutions, but certification in the various computer programming languages are available as well as computer applications.

A typical computer training website offers training courses in office skills, business skills, technical skills, web design and formal Microsoft training. In addition to this discounts are usually available to large groups such as a company per se. Through these sites, a student can learn at his or her own pace, save progress and generate course completion certificates instantly.

For those wishing to obtain certificated training only, there are many sites available. The Professional Education Institute is a prime example for this type of computer training. This particular company provides licensing for various subjects.

Aside from online computer training, there is also offline computer training available. Often, the student pays for the course in advance. A Compact Disk (CD) containing the course materials is sent to the student. In most instances, there are quizzes and mini-tests leading up to a final exam. Upon completion, the student emails a file to the originator and a completion certificate is returned to the student.

Employer Sponsored Online Computer Training

Most human resource professionals would agree that the most vital aspect in maintaining a good employee is through training. Keeping personnel trained on the most up to date aspects of their profession creates a more valuable employee. The downfall to this is that in a budget

crunch, an experienced employee seeking more compensation will have numerous options available. The reasoning: a trained employee is a valuable employee. Unfortunately this is true. In actuality, the employer must hope for loyalty in their employees. Without this loyalty, the doors can be virtually blown off their hinges. An answer to this dilemma may be in providing online computer training to employees for the basic requirements of the job at hand where practical. Certifications expire but don't require classroom attendance. Many online computer training courses are available covering everything from archaeology to zoology and everything in-between. One only need do a Google search for online computer training that covers the given subject to discover this.

A dilemma faced by many employers as it refers to training is expense. In a lot of training situations, class reservations, hotel reservations, meals and other expenses become a factor. Sometimes these expenses overshadow the expense of the course alone. In addition to this, the employer loses the employee for an extended period causing a slow down in production. Another consideration is the travel expense; gas, wear and tear on a company owned vehicle that make some training cost prohibitive. All of these expenses add up, sometimes into an astronomical amount that may discourage an employer from sending an employee for training.

Online computer training is beneficial in many ways and answers many facets of this dilemma. For one, there are no hotel reservations, or meal expenses. That alone can save money to make online computer training an attractive option. Productivity will be only minimally affected depending on the arrangements made for time to take the online computer training. Given the aforementioned, travel expenses; gas, wear and tear on the company vehicle are eliminated. The only true expense is that of paying the employee while they train. If accomplished properly, the expense can be negated.

Many online computer training institutions provide group discounts, thereby lightening the load on the employers wallet even further. In addition, most provide instant or relatively instant course results to the employer. As part of the majority of marketing schemes, these institutions also keep the employer up to date with their latest training schedules thereby building a rapport. Whatever the case, having this information hands-on allows an employer abreast of potential training opportunities.

Training an employee builds the employees value. This may increase the possibility that the employee may leave for 'greener pastures'. However, the more optimistic thought process implies that a trained employee is a happy employee. Keeping employees happy through training makes for loyal employees. In keeping with this, employers should not only be productive and proactive towards company goals. By providing not only training, but online computer training the expense bourn by the employer is lost.

Free Online Computer Training

So you are on a tight budget and you want some computer training, right? In this day and age there are a lot of options for people seeking to better themselves through various training programs and certification classes. However, some folks just don't have the cashflow to make

some of these options possible. That is where free online computer training comes in to play. Where else can you go and get enough information to teach yourself all about computers? From learning HTML (hyper-text mark up language, used to build websites) to how to tear down and rebuild a CPU (central processing unit)?

If you can plug in to a free online computer training system or set of resources, you can literally teach yourself almost anything. There are a variety of different ways to go about this process, so let's start at the beginning. The very first thing, before you ever embark on your online adventure, is to determine exactly what you want to learn from your free online computer training. Pick out your base subject, and then you can get started researching online sources for free training. For our examples, let's take the subject of HTML and see where we can get some free online computer training to learn HTML.

For the first step, let's get on a major search engine like Yahoo or Google and do a search for the term 'free HTML training' or 'free online computer training'. You will find quite a few results come up in reference to these terms, but don't be fooled. Most of these won't really have free training, maybe just a free sample class or two. Some of these won't have anything free at all, they either buy an advertising slot or they develop their website in a way to show up higher in the results to get your attention. Remember, what you are looking for is a site that is truly going to give you free online computer training.

Sometimes the best results for free online computer training can come in the form of free forums or bulletin boards. For those of you who are really new to the Internet, let's talk about this for a minute. Forums and bulletin boards are web pages that allow visitors to sign up as 'users', usually for free. Once you are registered with these sights, you can then post and respond to others on the forums or boards and ask questions. The beauty of these resources is that there are literally hundreds of them out there on almost any subject imaginable, especially dealing with computers. So, for someone looking for free online computer training, they are a great resource and should definitely not be overlooked. They can contain a great wealth of information from other users who have asked questions and had them answered on the boards.

Another great source of free online computer training consists of e-zines and newsletters. Do another search and use the terms 'e-zine' and 'newsletters' in conjunction with the free online computer training you are looking for. Most of these will be free as well, and you will have to subscribe for a short time to separate those that truly want to share some information with you versus those that are really only looking to sell you a product or a service through their correspondence. Overall it can be said that where there is a will, there is a way, especially when it comes to free online computer training.

Free Computer Training

Free computer training can take many different shapes and forms. The most common forms of free computer training usually include things like online forums, community classes, online resource bulletin boards, etc. However, there is a little-discussed option for free computer training that can boost your computer knowledge and make you one of the few, the proud, the people in the know about computers!

The method of free computer training we will discuss in this article is self-teaching. Now, obviously, in order to teach yourself something about computers (or any other subject for that matter) you must have access to some sort of reference material, right? While most new reference material will cost you an arm and a leg (especially in the computer field), there is a way around this! In order to get material for your free computer training, one area that is most overlooked is the used book store.

Now wait a minute, I can hear you saying, "That's not free!" Ah, but when you get the right kind of used book store, it literally can be free! You see, there are many used bookstores that offer book exchanges, or in-store credit for books that you may bring in for them to have. They are, after all, in the business of selling used books. Get the idea? So, free computer training material can be found at either no cost, or very low cost to any one seeking to be self-taught in the computer world.

So the next question becomes, "How exactly do you go about teaching yourself?". Well, admittedly, there is a knack for this sort of thing. However, anyone can attain free computer training through self-taught methods if you apply yourself and get organized. One method that I would recommend is the overview method. Get your materials together and go over all of the table of contents to find the exact topics that you are interested in. Then you can develop an outline for yourself, basically creating your own free computer training course. As you study the material, you can check it off of your outline, until you have completed your course.

It is important when you are teaching yourself through free computer training that you ensure that you are developing a firm grasp on the material. One way that is recommended to make sure you 'get it' would be to put into practical use whatever it is you are learning. Fore example, if you are learning HTML (website coding language), then a great way to test and practice what you are learning is to put together a web page from scratch! Another example of testing your knowledge that you are learning from free computer training is to upgrade your computer! If

you are learning about how to install additional RAM or a better sound card, then take on the challenge!

If you fail to firmly grasp the things that you are learning through your methods of self-taught free computer training, then you will never know how much you really know. Only through self-testing and practical application of this type of knowledge can you be confident in your ability to 'talk it up' around the water cooler, or even help a friend with their computer problems.

Evaluating Computer Training Courses

Computer training courses are easy to find: a simple Google search on the internet for computer training provides numerous 'hits'. Deciding which course to take, however, is a bit more complex. When evaluating computer training courses, several questions may come to mind. Each plays a major part in the decision making process. The most commonly asked questions include, but are not limited to the following:

What is the method of course material delivery? It has long been accepted by education professionals that there are three methods of human learning: visual, audio, and physical. Audio: the student learns by hearing. Visual: the student learns by reading or other visual cues. Physical: the student learns by doing. There are those however who learn by a combination of two or more of these. Online computer training courses offer all three. The

students learning style plays a large role in determining which kind of computer training course to take.

Time considerations: how much time is necessary to devote to course completion? Is the computer training course available 24 hours? Is there an instructor available to answer any questions the student may have? Oftentimes students who are taking computer training courses are doing so beyond time constraints of work. Military members are especially subject to time constraints with deployments and duty schedules playing a major role in making this decision. Time considerations are also a consideration for potential students who do shift-work or are on a rotating schedule.

Self-paced instruction or scheduled: self-paced instruction is especially attractive to students who are unavailable to attend scheduled classes. Self-paced allows computer training courses to be completed at the students convenience, yet requires self-discipline.

Location: is the computer training course available online or will the student be required to attend formal classroom instruction? Depending on the students work schedule or other personal considerations, online computer training may be the best option. Opportunities abound for hands-on instructor led instruction if location is not a factor. A potential problem with a formal classroom training environment is seating availability. Having online computer training available alleviates this potential problem.

Financial: What arrangements can be made towards financing the computer training course? The majority of educational programs are eligible for government funded grants provided they meet certain requirements. Will the computer training course require a down payment and offer

monthly payments? Are there other payment options available?   Some employers even offer tuition assistance depending upon what type of computer training course taken.

Certification: What certifications can be attained through the particular computer training course? Knowing the relevance of information being taught is of high importance. After all a student wanting to learn a Microsoft application would want to learn about the most current program available.

Other evaluations or course reputation: What have previous student experiences been? Knowing what past students experiences with the computer training course is invaluable. Did they find it challenging? Were they satisfied with the material presented? The lack of this information is often a deterrent. Along with this, is the student provided with an opportunity upon completion to provide an evaluation? In other words, opinions count in evaluating computer training courses as with any other training.

Finding the answers to these questions will provide the prospective student with the tools to make an educated decision.

Computer Training Job

One of the best career opportunities in the IT industry is the computer training job. Computer training jobs can take place in a variety of environments. However, these type of jobs are very

stable, the hours are scheduled in advance, and the reward of helping someone succeed in advancing their career are among the top reasons for working in the field. In fact, it is even possible to work a computer training job from home, as a personal tutor to those seeking training in a variety of arenas in modern computing.

In other areas of the computer technology industry, work can be unsteady, depending on the incoming work orders to stay busy. In addition, in many capacities, IT professionals find themselves on call during all hours of the night, the weekends, and even major holidays. With a computer training job, you're set! There are no weekends, no night classes, and no holidays (unless you sign up for them in advance - there's no last minute calling you in).

So what type of computer training jobs are available, and where do you find them? Some local mom and pop repair shops would be glad to host a weekly class aimed at the community to bring in business. They might not pay you directly, but you could charge an admission fee for your class and any reference material you might provide. While this type of computer training job seems more on the entrepreneurial side, it is all up to you.

Another opportunity for someone wanting to work in a computer training job could be working as a consultant for the small businesses in your area. Most small businesses use computers in their day to day operation, but many cannot afford a full-time IT person on staff. This presents an opportunity for the right person to come in and present weekly or monthly employee training classes. There is a wide variety of topics that could be coverd in such a computer training job, such as basic network troubleshooting, file maintenance, Internet security, and the like. If you want to be your own boss and have a computer training job, you will have to think outside the box.

Of course, there is the formal type of computer training job. These positions usually present themselves at the local college or university level, as well as at the corporate office of bigger companies. However, the one downside to this type of computer training job is that it will most certainly require a degree, not just a certification in your field. Any of the aforementioned computer training job ideas would present well just having a major certification under your belt in the area you are looking to conduct classes in. The halls of higher learning, however, require a much stricter criteria for hiring the teachers for their classes.

The bottom line is that if you want to experience a fulfilling area within the IT industry, finding a career in a computer training job is one way to certainly do it. From the standpoint of the entrepreneurial computer expert, there is no better way to take back control of your time and your life than developing your own career path. Put your best foot forward and come up with a great idea. Remember, think outside of the box, and you can find yourself working in a computer training job in no time at all!

Computer Training Class

So you want to learn about some aspect of computers, and are looking into taking a computer training class? Well, there are a variety of computer training classes available these days, so finding the right class for your level of experience is very important. Most people who are simply looking into taking a class to better their personal knowledge of computers or perhaps looking for better skills to develop their career can be well suited through the courses offered at local junior colleges in their area. In this article we will examine what types of computer training classes are usually available for the various levels of computer initiate.

For those who are a complete novice, a basics in computing is highly recommended. In this computer training class you will learn how a computer works, the history of computing, computer configurations, etc. A basic class is just what it says - the basics. From keyboarding, using the mouse, different types of computers, operating systems, etc., it is the beginner's place to start when learning about computers and computing. Some basic computer training classes also offer information on the basics of networking, from network printing using the LAN or local area network, to the use of a WAN or wide area network, such as the Internet. If you have the option to take such a class and you are a novice to computers, this is highly recommended. The information can be invaluable in everyday troubleshooting situations when you are looking to save the high dollar service fees of on-site technicians.

For the intermediate computer user, there are a variety of computer training classes that are available. On subject ranging from the internal workings of the computer and upgrading various components to building a system from scratch, there is a lot to learn at this level. Perhaps you know about the internal workings of a computer, but don't know much about how software works and runs.

At this stage you can also take a computer training class covering the basics of programming. While there are a variety of languages available today to program in, it is highly recommended that you learn C# (pronounced C sharp). It is on the cutting edge of programming and is a new object oriented language developed by Microsoft based on the older C and C+ programming languages. Perhaps you are more of a rogue, however, and are more interested in going against the flow of 'big brother' and 'big business'. Another highly recommended computer training class would be in the programming language of PERL (Practical Extraction and Reporting Language). This language is used to create CGI (Common Gateway Interface) programs that are in high demand and use on the web today.

For the advanced user, you will find there is always something to learn in a computer training class. Maybe you are very experienced in programming, hardware configuration, operating systems, upgrades, troubleshooting, etc. Depending on your level of expertise, you might consider taking a course of action to get your certification in a various field of computer knowledge. Not only will this improve your resume and look good as far as expanding your career horizons, you will gain a great feeling of accomplishment when you complete the computer training class needed for certification.

Computer Training And The United States Military

The US Armed Forces has not always been as accessible as it is today in terms of information. Prior to the internet era, computer training was more of a luxury than the accepted norm. Manuals and directives were kept in paper form and was dependent on timely submission of changes and modifications. Service records were kept in the same manner. This system of record keeping was often tedious and even counter-productive. The military recognized this as a problem, but were not technologically advanced enough to solve this problem. Eventually, force reductions and other factors created an even bigger problem: records management without trained personnel.

Another problem began to surface as it relates to educating personnel. As anyone who served in the US Armed Forces, pre-internet era, knows it can be very difficult to obtain a formal college education. Considerations had to be made for duty schedules, missions, deployments and other things. The typical method of obtaining non-traditional education was through correspondence courses. While this was relatively inexpensive to the student, it was also very dependent upon the US Mail. Lost certificates, or course materials was a major problem. All of this often cost members points toward promotions. Eventually, top military leaders determined that online computer training was the way to go.

Online computer training would be another step towards taking the military training program from the 20th Century right into the 21st Century. Taking the military online would not only alleviate this problem, but would help prepare the military for other advances in technology.

In order to accomplish this task, the military had to recognize shortfalls and make steps towards alleviating them. Realizing that the military had members who were computer savvy, and trainable aided in the transition, however there were not enough personnel available. Often, members who had obtained computer training while in the military were leaving for higher paying jobs in the civilian sector.

The first step the military took to move forward with technology was to establish a military occupational specialty (MOS) for computer programmers. The military actively recruited from technical colleges, often offering monetary incentives to prospects. Incentives included: traditional tuition assistance and bonuses. These members were provided with computer training; hardware, software, networking and more. In addition to programming, members with that MOS were charged with maintaining computer networks. Individual commands created their own Information Services Management Offices (ISMO) composed of computer trained members. Through ISMO's local commands were connected via local area networks (LAN) and wide area networks (WAN). This proved to be a very intelligent move on the part of the military.

Once established, members holding this MOS were offered incentives to remain in the military service; bonuses, guaranteed duty station assignments, among others.

Having computer trained personnel in the military has provided the military with the ability to keep pace with technology. With the advent of the internet, and the subsequent technology explosion came several more advances. These advances have allowed the military to create online environments. Through these online endeavors, the military has stream-lined record

keeping practices and made online computer training available to it's members across the globe.

With all of these advances, the US Armed Forces has become a military force of the future.

Computer Consultant Training

There are a variety of things you can learn about computers. Some people go to school just to learn how to give other people advice about their computers. This person would be considered a computer consultant. Computer consultant training is becoming as popular as some of the other types of computer training that is out there. The primary reason for this is that computer consultants are in demand, helping people decide on what type of system and / or software is needed for their personal or business use.

Becoming a computer consultant is not exactly easy, as this is a field that is under constant change. Computer consultant training is something that a consultant should undergo at least once a year. While there is no 'official' industry standardized test or certification, there are several certifications that come to mind based on a manufacturers recommendations. For example, if you are primarily concerned with working with Microsoft software products and machines that are compatible with them, you might consider becoming a MCSE, or Miscrosoft Certified Systems Engineer. On the other hand, if you are a Dell man (or woman), then you

would be more interested in getting Dell certified as a DCSE, or Dell Certified Systems Engineer. Basically both of these titles mean that you know how to tear down a system and put it back together again. Ideally, you would have some overall knowledge and idea of what type of functionality a system would be capable of, or what it can be used for.

Computer consultant training can be accomplished in a variety of ways. If you are looking for an actual certification program such as one of those mentioned in the preceding paragraph, you can go online and do a search. Simply go to one of the major search engines, such as Google, and do a search for 'computer consultant training' or the actual name of one of the certifications you are seeking. There are a couple of things you should know about certifications with big names, however. Most of these certifications are done in a strict testing environment at a local facility. However, the payment for the tests is usually done online. Shop around. Don't buy the voucher, or payment coupon, from the actual site itself. A lot of times if you take the time to shop around you will be able to find computer consultant training at a discounted rate, through a third-party vendor.

Computer consultant training can also be accomplished by the tried and true method of internship, or learning from someone else. If you are serious about becoming a computer consultant, but are short on cash and don't really feel like going through an official training program, consider taking a job in a local computer shop. You will be pleasantly surprised how much you can learn in a short period of time working in a shop where you have a computer consulting training mentor. Computer consulting can be a very lucrative field to get into, but you have to know your stuff. Taking a class or mentoring under someone are the best methods available to go from novice newbie to avid computer consultant in the shortest period of time.

Avoiding Improprieties In Online Computer Training Courses

Online computer training courses are offered by both reputable institutions and sometimes not-so-reputable sources. The problem in determining which is which can be determined through appropriate resources. The purpose of this article is to provide a few guidelines as to what to look for when you are looking for online computer training. Regardless of the course taken, this may prove helpful.

More and more students are taking to the internet to solve a common dilemma: lack of time to obtain classroom instruction. This has created a niche for education professionals: online computer training courses. These courses are numerous and cover topics from astrology to zoology and everything in between. Starting with the information provided below may prove helpful:

Reputation: One of the first signs or signals of impropriety to look for when evaluating an online computer training course is reputation. Are there reviews available for the company or group offering the training? If not, this may be a negative indication. If there are, do they post both favorable and unfavorable reviews? If so, this may indicate an open-mindedness towards criticism on the part of the staff.

Accredited or Not: Is the particular online computer training course accredited? If not, depending on your needs, this may prove to be a wasted effort on your part. Though you may feel as though you've learned something, it may prove to be worthless as it pertains to advancing a degree. Accreditation should be looked at with scrutiny. A good source for determining accreditation is through a Google search for accredited online colleges.

Physical Location: Is the staff located in one physical location or does correspondence go to a post office box? A company that doesn't have a physical location on a map could be another sign of impropriety. Without a physical location to visit and or lodge a complaint can prove to be difficult in the event of legal problems such as settling a dispute. Some online computer training courses offer interaction through electronic mail (Email), this should not be taken as a negative unless there is no corresponding physical address.

Contact Information: Is telephonic conversation done through a 1-800 number? Often times dummy corporations and other illegal activities are coordinated through 800 numbers. That's not to say that this by itself should be a deciding factor: some operate call centers through a network of 800 numbers to lessen expenses. Is there an alternate contact phone number? Again, not solely a disqualifying factor however it is a plus to find that there is a non 800 number available.

Catalog: Is the company offering the online computer course, offering only one course or do they possess a catalog of courses available? Providing a singular course is a bad sign. Just as a traditional college doesn't concentrate on one discipline of study, neither should a reputable institution offering online computer training courses.

As in any online endeavor that may have an effect on your future, due diligence should be taken prior to a financial commitment. The suggestions made in this article are not all inclusive and should not be taken singularly as an indication of impropriety; rather in whole or in combination.

A Look At The Growth of The Computer Training Industry

It started with a math problem. That problem brought on the challenge of more complex math problems. Humans were performing these complex math problems using various methods. Then came the abacus: a simple instrument designed to aid in performing mathematical calculations. One might say that this is where computer training began: the first teacher training the first student on the operation of the abacus.

Many years hence, other devices were created to aid in mathematical computations, yet the original 'computer' - the abacus - remained. Through the aid of electronics came the first computer. This first computer could fill a room. In fact, there are many from that era in use to this day: they still fill a room. The purpose of the first computer was to complete complex mathematical operations in little or no time.

In the beginning, computers were the forte of scientists and mathematicians. Then they became more prevalent making their way into universities and other higher learning institutions. At the universities and other higher learning institutions sat students undergoing their first computer training classes. Students anxiously stood in line after line to sign up for computer training classes: many were turned away due to over-crowding.

As technology advanced, these super computers began shrinking in size. In fact, computers can now be found that are smaller than a cornflake: they are properly termed microchips or mini-computers. Along with the shrinking size of the computer came the shrinking price of a computer. Eventually, computers became affordable enough for the average Joe to own. Not only were they small and affordable, they were portable (think laptop).

With all of these computers, somebody needed to know how to use them. Universities offered computer training courses as well as small colleges and technical colleges. What was once considered an intellectuals pursuit only, has become commonplace. High Schools initially offered computer science's where basic computer programming and computer basics were taught. The computer then made it's way into middle schools and on into elementary schools. It's come to the point where everyone attending public schooling is exposed to some form or another of computer training.

It's gotten to the point where young school-aged students began having more experience than the older generation. In fact, it seemed they were outpacing their elders in at least that one area of expertise.

The older generation began to recognize the need for computer training. Many were busy raising the younger generation. This generation found it difficult to take time to attend formal computer training in a classroom environment. Still others, busied by a full time job faced a similar dilemma. Computers were in the workplace and the higher paying jobs were going to those with computer knowledge or outright expertise.

Companies, institutions, and computer experts recognized this and took advantage of it. The lack of computer training and or lack of time created a niche. Computer training took off. Online computer training courses became available for just about anyone that could find their way onto the internet. This truly brought computer's to everyone.

Considering the above account, one can't help but wonder what the next step in the growth of computer training will be.

Computer Training For Emergency Services Personnel

Emergency Services personnel receive extensive training in their respective academy. In the initial phase of training, the subject matter is mainly academic. Law enforcement personnel, for one, cover topics such as state law, drug recognition, hazardous materials recognition, and more through hours of classroom instruction. The remainder of the training cycle is hands-on training. In a portion of the hands-on training, computers play a major role. For instance, for law enforcement there are 'shoot or don't shoot' scenarios: These are played out on a video game like system, in which the officer stands on a padded surface that detects every movement (ducking, kneeling, shifting side-to-side). While standing on the surface, the officer has a weapon 'holstered' and is provided scenarios in which he or she must decide whether or not to shoot a subject. During this training, the officers every action or inaction is monitored up to and including verbal commands given to the 'subject'. This type of computer training has proven vital over the years in terms of evaluating prospective law enforcement officials.

In the world of Emergency Services, certification is imperative. Included in the definition of Emergency Services personnel are police, fire, and EMS. In most states these personnel are required to maintain certification through a points system. Personnel earn points through

course completion; annual certification in different subject matter and annual re-certifications. In addition to the points earned for required academic subjects, there are points awarded for similar training courses. These 'extra' subject matter are often considered an acceptable substitution for required subjects.

In the past fifteen years, due to budget constraints and other factors, annual academic subject matter is being rearranged to accommodate computer training. This has proven cost effective to state and local agencies: budgets aren't stretched thin, leaving funds available for special projects and such.

There are many examples of computer training received by Emergency Services personnel. Of the many important classes, for example, are Hazardous Material recognition courses. The benefit of completing a course such as this is twofold: the materials can be covered easily during a shift, and instant results are generated. The fact that a computer training course can be completed during a shift makes it cost effective for a small department in terms of travel expense, wear and tear on a vehicle, and time lost to training.

For policemen desiring to obtain training on subject matter that would normally require their attendance at a far off training conference, this is a boon. Computer training courses covering topics such as drug recognition are relatively easy to find. These courses are generally recognized by the respective law enforcement training division of the given state. While a policemen may be discouraged from taking such a course during duty hours, it is entirely possible to complete such a course during off-duty hours. Again, this type of computer training course benefits not only the officer, but the Department.

Perhaps the biggest benefit of computer training for Emergency Services personnel is the one aspect of their lives that become the most neglected: family time.