Computer Science Business Partnership Council
June 16, 2016
4:00pm-4:43pm

I. Introduction of Members
Melinda Miller, Former IT Director for the City of Jupiter, now an IT consultant for the State of Florida and Palm Beach County

Ryan Ridley, Eastside Computer Solutions

Harold Kline, Palm Beach State College, Computer Science Department.

Bob Decker, CyberSecurity teacher, John E. Leonard High School

Sachin Nepal, IT Manager, Stanton Optical

Nicol Quinn, Human Resource Business Director, Stanton Optical

Ray Colucci, Palm Beach State College, Computer Science Department

Olivia Witkowski, Software Engineer, Float Left Interactive

John Howard, Software Development, Crossmatch

Gareth Marchant, IT Director, Clerk & Comptroller Office, Palm Beach County

Dr. Elizabeth I. Horvath, Palm Beach State College, Computer Science department.

2. What programming languages do your programmers typically code in?

Melinda Miller said that SQL was used and that she works on projects which use Microsoft SQL Server and Oracle.

Ryan Ridley said that he maintains computers, performs general computer trouble-shooting, and help desk trouble-shooting, but does not perform any programming in his job.

Bob Decker said that JavaScript, Python, and Visual Basic are used by the IT personnel of the Palm Beach County School District and that Java, C++, Visual Basic, and Python are taught at John E. Leonard High School.

Sachin Nepal said that there are no programmers in his company, but they use Windows Servers and Cisco routers. He said that the company is growing rapidly and is looking for new hires, specifically IT Specialists.

Olivia Witkowski said that she uses JavaScript, node.js, Objective C, and BrightScript.

John Howard said that C#, C++, JavaScript, Java, Android, Developers, abstract ORM, and Mango are used. He also said that database clustering is used.

Gareth Marchant said that Visual Basic and C# are used.

3. What database management system do you have at your business and is the installation and maintenance done by in-house staff? What networking devices should your IT staff be able to configure?

Gareth Marchant said that they have dedicated staff for DBA (database administrators) and database development. He also said that they did database clustering of SQL Server.

John Howard mentioned previously that database clustering was used.

Melinda Miller mentioned previously that she works on projects which use Microsoft SQL Server and Oracle.

Olivia Witkowski said that there are no database servers, but that hosted services are used.

4. What operating systems do you have at your business and is the installation and maintenance done by in-house staff? What networking devices should your IT staff be able to configure?

Melinda Miller said that Microsoft is the primary operating system. She   installs and maintains operating systems, but she has technical vendors to assist with larger projects. Servers and switches are configured in house.

Ryan Ridley's company uses Windows 7, Windows 8.1, Windows Server 2008, and Windows Server 2012.

Bob Decker said that the school district uses Windows Server 2012, Windows 7, and that there will be beta rollout of Windows 10 next year.

Olivia Witkowski's company uses MacOS and Debian Linux.

Gareth Marchant's organization uses Windows 7, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2012 R2, Windows ESX, and RedHat Linux.

John Howard mostly uses Windows Server 2012 for the servers, Windows 7 and Windows 10 for the clients. The developers use Debian Linux.

Sachin Nepal previously mentioned that they use Windows Servers and Cisco routers

5. What skills do your recent hires have?
Melinda Miller said that they have a foundation in networking, maintenance, and trouble-shooting.   She does not have too many programmers, database developers, or DBAs.   The employees must have additional skills outside of IT or networking; they also must have project management skills. Everyone needs to understand project management, business system processes, and update management.

Ryan Ridley said that 90% of his work is trouble-shooting. Employees must be able to multitask, since they must work on other things while the software is being installed. Time management, soft skills, being service-oriented, and being polite are all necessary skills.

Bob Decker said that there are no new hires.

Olivia Witkowski said that soft skills are important, as well as understanding version control, building processes since problems will occur if everyone is not on the same page. New hires must have good communication skills.

Gareth Marchant said that new hires must have hands-on experience in area, be able to demonstrate experience, understand ticketing system, business continuity, and QA (Quality Assurance) testing.

John Howard said that soft skills, scrum meetings, and working in teams are necessary. The programmers must understand GIT (distribution system model) and Scrum, version control, and building processes. Also, they must be able to learn on their own and not require continual direction. He wanted employees who would explore new technologies to see if they could be used in the company.

6. Please note the attached course listings of classes offered at Palm Beach State College and please give advice on how to improve the Computer Science programs.

Melinda Miller recommended a class on system management that included IDLE, COBIT Governance Framework, release management, change management, problem reporting, and ticketing. She also said that IPM Structural Management will decrease problems for business process management. It would also help to understand what the customers want, the overall objectives of the business, the alignment of the IT, and the mission of the organization.

Ryan Ridley said he learned about virtualization in his classes, but that expanded courses in virtualization are necessary at the college. As his company's business expands, this will be a business challenge.

Bob Decker said that virtualization is required in the cyber security classes. He said there is no experience with virtualization at the district level.

Olivia Witkowski said that a comprehensive class in JavaScript is needed as well as best practices. She recommended a class in collaborative programming, version control, and build processes.

Gareth Marchant said that the program is a great mix of courses and covers a lot of bases. A specialized virtualization certification would be good.

John Howard said that JavaScript, node.js, and server-side Java are important programing skills. He recommended a new class on life cycle and project management where a team would determine the requirements, solve a problem, learn procedure QA, and create a project start to finish and delivery. He also suggested having a development team where students could find what they are good at.

7. Additional Comments

Dr. Horvath mentioned that there were two new courses covering Oracle and a course in Python with Raspberry Pi, which is a small, inexpensive computer.

Melinda Miller asked about the Network Security CCC, on which she had given input. Dr. Horvath mentioned that there have already been several completers.

8. Election of Computer Science Business Partnership Council Chair

Olivia Witkowski was elected Chair of the Business Partnership Council.

Attendees:
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