

Re: career switch advice?

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- *From:* "Bill" <xxx@xxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 19 Apr 2005 00:42:08 GMT
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"The Gist" <GiveMeTheGist@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:6xU8e.34620\\$AO2.11536@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:6xU8e.34620$AO2.11536@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

> X-No-Archive: yes

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> I am not sure if this is the best forum to ask this question but it seems
> that there are some people here that might have some good thoughts on this
> question.

> My current job/career is that I write software for medical researchers at a
> large research facility. I have a masters in math. My bachelors was in
> biology. Previously, I have worked in the same industry (bio-tech,
> specifically, what is called "bio-informatics"). I am getting really burnt
> out writing software. Also, I do not see much in the way of moving up. If I
> were a lab technician than after some years I would expect to eventually
> move into a leadership role or maybe into another aspect of the industry
> such as business development, however, my prospects in this are essentially
> non-existent. I am quite good with technical problem solving, analyzing
> trends, and such like. I have long had a keen interest in investing and
> finance. I would like to maybe make the jump to the finance industry,
> however, other than managing my own little portfolio I have very little
> experience in that industry.

> How can I best direct my efforts into making this career switch? Some people
> have suggested I try taking some actuarial exams and try and get in that
> route. Is that sound advice?

> Really, I am open to any advice anyone is willing to give.....

> Thanks!!

The general area you are in is thought to be up and coming. I have heard people like Gates say if they were starting over today they would get into biology – not computers. Thus, not the software end of the business but rather the more biological end where the software – which you may write – is more of a tool. I understand that things like genome sequencing and learning how to develop drugs from that, studying protein folding, etc. are hot areas. You may or may not need some additional courses for that – but you have probably picked up some of the skills.

I would talk with someone in your company first about your career goals. Someone you think will give you good advice – who may or may not be in your

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management chain. You probably want to talk to your boss first about your long range goals and see if he/she has any suggestions. (Obviously don't say you are going to leave – unless you really are about to.)

If you want to go into finance, it sounds like you might want to look at jobs in the areas where people analyze companies to spot bargains. I don't know much about actuarial work. But I think for the most part it involves working for insurance companies figuring out how to price insurance policies etc. I would investigate a lot about what is involved and look over past exams and find out what degree backgrounds they require before taking any exams.

Bill

- *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ *Re: career switch advice?*

- ◆ *From:* Lantern

- *References:*

- ◆ *career switch advice?*

- ◆ *From:* The Gist

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