

IT (Information Technology) Has Taken Me Everywhere



By Beth A. Martin

March 30, 2010

Published June 21, 2010 on [Careers Articles](#)

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I started in the Technology Industry when there were very few women, and I was there during the largest growth period in this industry. I have gone from entry level web designer at "dot bombs" to Information System Manager in the Government. I have transitioned major systems from Main Frames to Web-Based applications. I survived Y2K, it wasn't that bad. I have touched almost every industry and have worked on almost every type of system. It has been an exciting career path, and I am looking forward to another decade of wildly wonderful technology!

I have a Bachelors degree that took me nearly 6 years to get. It is a CIS degree but it is not the run of the mill Computer Information Science degree but instead Computer Information Studies. It is not under the college of Science; it's the under the college of Arts. I got to create my own degree. *I had to title this degree, pick coursework and then submit it to a committee for approval and recognition that they would award this Bachelors degree. They did!

It took me this long to finish, because I took sometime off to marry and then jumped around trying out different majors. I started out pre-med, I wanted to be a veterinarian. Worked for a vet and knew 8 years plus was going to kill me. I went to my counselor and said, "I have all these sciences and maths, where can they count towards major credits and not as electives?". I was advised that any engineering degree would be good. So I looked: Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, Ocean and Computer. The one that I thought would be most interesting was Ocean; however, I did not have enough credits to be a Junior (3rd year) to register early for Ocean Engineering courses and since I was coming back mid-year I'd have to wait to take the core classes until the start of the next term. I wanted a degree and out of college. Since I did have some courses in high school on [Apple](#) computers and I did own a Commodore 64, I decided on [Computer Engineering](#). After all, I liked computers well enough and did know how to use them.

As any computer major knows, it was over 2 years of programming. I do not like programming and started to panic about midway through.

So I again consulted with my adviser. I was advised that the best thing that I could do was spread myself out. This was the best way to market myself and keep all possibilities open and my interesting degree allowed me to do just that.*

I started looking for an IT job while I was still pursuing my degree and this was a great idea. I was able to secure my first IT job at \$7/hour, where I was doing web design. I left there shortly and worked for several "dot-bombs". Those were basically ISP (Internet Service Providers) that were reselling dial-up services for big telephone companies and WPP (which I refer to as Web Presence Providers) offering web hosting and design.

After I graduated with my CIS degree from [Florida Atlantic University](#), I got \$10/hour for designing websites and then got thrown into networking when the admin violated his probation; after all I did have some experience, I could upload websites. Honestly, that was my big break. This was my web design and development experience, help desk, ISP and hosting support, and entry level system administration experience.

Then I had my first child and took a small break off during the Y2K transition (that might have brought the entire computer world to its knees). Back from maternity leave, I scored my first professional IT job. \$50K year! I was a System Admin at a credit card processing firm for a year. I received Financial and Network Administration experience with some Database work.

Before plans to relocate, I began looking for another job and got one as Information Systems Manager for the Welfare and [Unemployment](#) sector. I managed servers, systems, support and IT staff. I acquired management, budgeting and more Systems Admin experience and was there 2 1/2 years. This was in the public service sector and it was a [Linux/Unix](#) shop.

Then I had my second child and moved north out of state. I took a year off and then received a job as a Network Administrator at a school board within the government and education sectors. Here is where I received my [Network+](#), [LPI 101](#) (additional training) and [Cisco](#) and [Novell](#) experience. I was there for 2 years. After a layoff, I then acquired a job at a newly relocated data center,

offering, DNS, hosting, e-mail storage and filtering. I worked 6 months at this e-mail and hosting company in the private sector.

Currently, I am now the full IS/IT Administrator at a manufacturing plant. I handle everything IT from the user to the financial database and routing.

So it (IT) has been a crazy ride. Basically I have done it all except medical and security clearance governmental systems. IT has kept me busy and it is not for the meek or lazy. IT has been more than I had hoped for and more than I ever thought that IT would be. My IS/IT degree has gotten me in the door, taken me into all different industries and I love it. I would not change my degree, and I cannot wait to see where IT takes me next!

For more about the future of IT, visit http://www.doleta.gov/BRG/Indprof/IT_profile.cfm

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