

Career Path Plan

When attempting to develop a career path plan I found it important to look at two major questions.. These two questions are “Where?” and “What?” or moreover where do I want to work and what do I want to be doing. The first question is probably the easier of the two to answer. After much reflection I came to the conclusion that it is important to stay as close to home as possible. I like living in Wisconsin and all the people in my life who are important to me are here. It may sound somewhat closed minded to not be willing to move far away but for the most part I think it is not entirely possible to be happy with my career if I am not pleased with my life outside my career.

The second question is the harder of the two questions to answer. The one thing I am positive of, is that I am interested in a job in the computer field. This is quite a broad statement, so to narrow this down a bit I thought I would think about the jobs I have done in the past and the aspects of each job that I have liked. The common theme from the computer jobs that I have enjoyed is dealing with people. I have worked in Tech Support on two separate occasions and although I did not necessarily enjoy the actual troubleshooting of hardware and software, I always enjoyed working with people and the sense of accomplishment involved with fixing others problems. When considering my current job of database programming I have found similar results. Some of the more enjoyable aspects of my job have been training users and getting feedback on the programming I have done and changing the software accordingly. On the negative side of things I have found extensive coding for 8+ hours a day to not be the most enjoyable task. Even though I really enjoy coding, I don't know if I can handle 8+ hours a day, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks out of the year.

Overall, the major conclusions I have drawn about my future have been decidedly to look for a job in the area (the farthest being Milwaukee or Madison), work that involves programming (not 24/7) and working with people (maybe of a consulting nature).