

Demand outpaces supply for tech jobs

EMPLOYMENT: Fewer students enrolled in computer science

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Kevin Fessenden was a Miami University sophomore when he and two other 19-year-old college students founded a computer consulting firm in 2002.

They operated UnitedWare LLC part-time until graduating last year. Now, the Cincinnati-based firm has eight clients.

It has helped devise a Web-based marketing system for home builders, developed a software application for the University of Cincinnati's pathology department and is proposing to revamp a chamber of commerce's Web site in the Cincinnati suburb of Evendale.

"When you're going to be an entrepreneur, one of the things you learn is you have to do a lot of things," Fessenden said.

He is among the recent college graduates fortunate enough to have majored in computer science or related fields at a time when demand for their services is often outrunning the numbers of qualified people available.

'If you have a science and engineering type of background, the market is receptive to you.'

Navin Goel
SOGETI INC

Companies including Deloitte Consulting, Microsoft Corp., Cardinal Consulting and Sogeti USA are looking for computer science specialists who are either about to graduate or have been out of college just a few years.

problem."

Troy is reaching out to high schools and urging Miami graduates to spread the word, in hopes of attracting more students to the field.

Forouzan Golshani, chairman of Wright State University's department of computer science and engineering, said it is common for his department to have a half dozen pending requests from companies offering permanent or part-time jobs, co-op positions, internships and summer jobs. Software engineers and product

testers for hardware are among those in demand.

"We keep getting requests from a lot of companies that are interested in hiring the moment our students complete their degrees," Golshani said.

Erin Klayman, 22, of Mentor, landed a summer internship job in information technology for supply chain parts last year with General Electric Aviation in suburban Cincinnati after her junior year as a computer science major at Miami. She has already accepted GE Aviation's offer of

a full-time IT job that she plans to start in July, after her college graduation.

Klayman was undecided on an academic specialty her first year in college. She was considering majoring in English before she took a computer course, enjoyed it and declared herself a computer science major as a sophomore. The GE internship proved invaluable for getting work in information technology, she said.

"It's a great field," Klayman said. "It's always changing."

