

Company offers access to the national job market

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ing to work. The data base of listings is broken-down in several different ways to help streamline the search process. The files are updated continuously and once a job has been sent out to a user of the system it is not sent in a subsequent request.

Halton uses system

"The Region of Halton has been using JobSAT for about 18 months and it has evolved into a staple of their social assistance network," said Mr. Maciel. "It's like we have a huge basket of job listings and JobSAT allows you to put a series of filters under that basket, so you only end up with the listings which are specific to you."

According to Mr. Maciel the system searches in two ways. One is a shotgun approach, which is a text scan of any jobs with key words in their descriptions. The other is more refined, such as searching by job title.

The data of listings is compiled into a number of general reports which can help job seekers target sectors of the economy, and geographical locations, as well as help employers know where job seekers are coming from.

Toronto and Ottawa are the two biggest sites for information requests. Mr. MacLean explained they are both areas where university students can access JobSAT through library computers. The system is also popular with career search departments at various schools.

International job trackers

There are regular users around the world, especially in the information technology segment of the employment market. One emigration firm from London, England uses the system to track job opportunities for people who might move to Canada.

Searches on the system can provoke amusing situations.

Once a nuclear physicist was hunting for employment. In itself his employment search was not funny, however his e-mail originated from Chernobyl.

The JobSAT program limits the number of potential listings which will be posted to anyone's e-mail to 50 from any one request.

According to Mr. Maciel that is done to help keep the system open. He said it would be rare to have that many listings apply to any request.

"We want the system to be available to individual users," said Mr. Maciel. "It's not in our best interests to have someone acquire our entire data base."

Systems Xcellence also focusses on computer applications in health care and the financial services industries. It started in Toronto and now has offices in Victoria and Dallas.

JobSAT's e-mail address is JOBSAT@TOR.HOOKUP.NET while its homepage on the web is located at: <http://www.hookup.net/~jobsat/js-home.htm>

FALL REGISTRATION

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