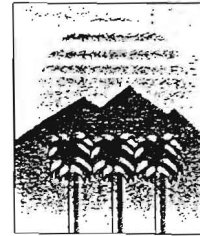


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Job security is history; be prepared for change

There is no such thing as a permanent or secure job. There is no loyalty from employees or employers these days. From the beginning of time companies have been in business to fulfill their mission and make a profit. Good companies want to take care of their employees, but the bottom line is profit, which always comes first.

What's out these days is seniority, steady paychecks, upward mobility and tradition.

What's in these days is: flexibility, diversity, change, job rotation, cross-training, education and self-starting.

According to Dr. Stephen Chappel, there was a story about two boyhood friends, both of



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them started out working for the railroad. Twenty years later, one of them became the president while the other stayed pretty much in the same labor job he was hired into. The laborer was asked why he had not advanced while his friend had become so successful. He replied, "Years ago, I went to work for 75 cents an hour. My friend went to work for a railroad."

There is no such thing these days as a job that lasts forever. But there are things that you can do so that you can become more valuable to your employer. If you want to have more job security here are some suggestions:

■ Become more valuable to your organization. If cutbacks or reorganizations are being considered, the persons to let go first are those who have limited skills and values.

■ You must know computers in the 21st century if you are to survive in the job market.

■ Take time to learn simple word processing, Excel spreadsheets and other commonly used software.

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■ Know how to use e-mail and the Internet.

■ Become a good communicator with co-workers and supervisors.

■ Get to work on time, learn and follow the rules.

Many experts predict that in the near future a typical job will last only five years. You may want to have a backup career. Find out what your interests, abilities and work values are, before starting a new career.

To ensure job security, build

your reputation. It is important to keep your networking group active at all times. For instance, you should belong to some professional organization as well as community organizations.

Looking for a job is a full-time job. If you are in transition, plan on spending 60 percent to 80 percent of your job-search time in networking and good luck in your job search.

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