Subject: Re: Job Offer: Dept. of Planetary Sciences, Univ. of Arizona
Posted by Ken Knighton on Fri, 26 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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"George D. Palo" <geop@whidbey.com> wrote:
> Tim Patterson wrote:
>>
>> The Department of Planetary Sciences at the University of Arizona in
>> Tucson is seeking a highly-motivated and self-directed individual to
>> fill the position of **Application Systems Analyst, Senior**.
>>
>> CASPER is a software package written in Fortran and C for this
>> purpose,
> Fortran still exists ... amazing.

Fortran is still very widely used in the scientific community. Most of the major numerical analysis codes are written in Fortran and there are literally billions of lines of Fortran code in use today. At a cost of $3-$5 per line of code, this represents a pretty significant replacement cost. I am not a big fan of Fortran (or Cobol, which has a far larger body of code in place), but there will probably be a Fortran 2020 standard (ratified in 2026 no doubt).

>
>>
>> Annual salary will be in the range $ 32,500 - $ 36,500.
>
> You've got to be kidding! Try $72,000 to $96,000.
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

You must work in the bay area. The figure you give is no doubt greater than the salaries made by the Ph.D. researchers in that department. These researchers are used to paying $12,000/year to highly capable grad students to do the same thing. Also, most researchers have written 500-1000 line tangled webs of code that they believe are computer programs, and so they view programming as something that is inherently easy, requires merely above average intelligence, and is mostly just grunt work like writing a paper or preparing a presentation. Realizing that the researchers control the funds and that they are underpaid for the amount of education and hard work that they have invested, it is easy to understand that they would resent paying market wages to someone doing a task that they perceive as easy.

Finally, in Tucson, I would expect a computer programmer with this amount of experience to make $45,000-60,000/yr plus good benefits. In reality, there will probably be a lot of competition from the many Ph.D. scientists who can't find a job in their field. This means that:

> The data from the

> Cassini Mission will be dependent upon some one making ...

entry level BS Comp. Sci. graduate wages.

Regards,

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