Subject: Re: Job Offer: Dept. of Planetary Sciences, Univ. of Arizona
Posted by Ken Knighton on Fri, 26 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

"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,

Ken Knighton   knighton@gav.gat.com knighton@cts.com
General Atomics
San Diego, CA