

## Welcome to ITWF research project!

### Invitation to Participate

As an IT person, you have been invited to participate in a research study related to the culture of the information technology workforce (ITWF). In this stage of the study we are hoping to receive responses from students and graduates in the information technology/systems field who have work experience in IT and reside in English speaking countries (i.e. US, UK, Singapore, India).

### Informed Consent

We would like to receive your permission to use information gathered from you with this survey for research purposes. Please read all statements below before agreeing to participate in the survey.

### Eligibility of Research

- 1) To qualify for the study you must have worked in an IT related position. This includes internships, "co-op" placements, part/full time jobs, summer jobs and any other posts in the IT field.
- 2) You must be enrolled or have some academic background in an IT-related field of study such as computer science, computer engineering, information technology and management, information systems, software engineering, or other similar programs.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes. You will be asked to answer questions based on your IT-related work experiences. The survey has 4 pages total including this one.

Please note that your participation is voluntary and you are free to discontinue at anytime. You do not have to give us your personal information unless you would like to receive the results of this study. If you have any question/suggestion about this project, please send an e-mail to Indira Guzman (iguzmand@syr.edu).

If you agree to participate, please start the survey now.

## Thank you very much for helping us understand the IT profession!

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### A. How do other people see you? How do you see yourself? Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with these statements about stereotypes of the IT field.

Answer Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree to 6-Strongly Agree

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>						<b>Strongly Agree</b>
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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
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1. If someone called me a geek/nerd I would consider it an insult.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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2. I think other people do think of me as a geek/nerd.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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3. I don't consider myself a nerd/geek.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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4. My family thinks of me as a computer geek/nerd.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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5. Some of my colleagues are definitely computer geeks/nerds.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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6. I do not mind being stereotyped as a geek/nerd.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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7. Being seen as geek by others is not a problem for me.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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8. I like IT jargon/technical language.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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- 9. When I start a new IT project, I don't mind learning all of the new names of products and technologies.
- 10. I enjoy using technical terms to communicate with other members of the IT profession.
- 11. In my IT profession we like to use acronyms/abbreviations.

**People in the society tend to use stereotypes about IT people. What are the most common stereotypical words about IT people that you heard in your country besides "geek" or "nerd"?**

Please type stereotypical words you have heard

**B. Please indicate the degree of confidence that you have of being able to perform these tasks in the IT field.**

Answer Scale: 1- Not at all confident I can do this to 6- Totally confident I can do this

<b>Not at all confident I can do this</b>	<b>Totally confident I can do this</b>
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(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Solve difficult information technology problems.                                     | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Accomplish all IT-related tasks designated to me.                                    | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Efficiently deal with unexpected IT-related events.                                  | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. Handle whatever comes my way when dealing with IT.                                   | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Use my resourcefulness with technology to successfully handle unforeseen situations. | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Solve the majority of IT-related problems if I invest the necessary effort.          | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Remain calm when facing IT-related difficulties.                                     | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Find the best possible solution when confronted with an IT-related problem.          | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |

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Please rate all statements on how well they apply to your own experiences in the IT field.

C. What do you like and dislike about the challenges in the IT field? Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Answer Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree to 6-Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree



(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

- 3. I like learning about the newest technologies in the IT field.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 4. Keeping up with recent knowledge in my field is important for me.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 5. I enjoy keeping myself updated with the latest developments in IT.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 6. I enjoy spending extra hours learning more about information technology.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- \*\*\*\*\*
- 7. It is tough to work in the IT field, but I like it that way.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 8. I enjoy dealing with difficult tasks in the IT field.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 9. Continuous changes in the IT field do not bother me.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 10. For me the fast pace of the IT field makes it enjoyable.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 11. I would not mind an IT job that required an unusual work schedule.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 1. I enjoy learning how to solve IT related problems.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 2. I enjoy obtaining hands-on experience with IT.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)

D. Please answer the degree to which you agree with the following statements based on your own experiences in the IT field.

Answer Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree to 6-Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree



(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

- 1. I enjoy working with people who share and understand IT-related issues.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 2. I enjoy the feeling of being needed to provide help with computers.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 3. I enjoy knowing that other people depend on my services.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 4. I enjoy being asked for computing help.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 5. I dislike being asked repeatedly about the same IT issues.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 6. I like being a member of the IT experts' "club".  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 7. When people recognize my IT expertise, I get a good feeling.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 8. Some of my role models are famous names in the IT field.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)

E. For you -- how much is IT a part of your life outside of work? Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Answer Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree to 6-Strongly Agree

Strongly Strongly

- |   |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|   | (1)                   | (2)                   | (3)                   | (4)                   | (5)                   | (6)                   |
| 1. When I'm not at work I spend time on my computer surfing the web.                                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. When I'm not at work I often play with my own computer and software.                             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. I enjoy PC/Online gaming quite frequently.   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. I enjoy spending my free time playing with information technology.                               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. One of the things that I share with some of my friends is our love for information technologies. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Socializing with other IT people is fun for me.  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**F. What are your feelings about the IT profession in general? Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

Answer Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree to 6-Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

- 1. I strongly identify myself with the IT profession  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 2. When someone criticizes the IT field, it feels like a personal insult  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 3. I care a lot about what others think of the IT field.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 4. When I talk about the IT field, I usually say 'we' rather than 'they.'  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 5. The IT field's successes are my successes.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 6. When someone praises the IT field it feels like a personal compliment.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 7. When the media criticizes the IT field, I do not feel comfortable.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- \*\*\*\*\*
- 8. Being in the IT field is important to my self-image.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 9. I regret having entered the IT profession.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 10. I am proud to be in the IT profession.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 11. I dislike being an IT person.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 12. I am enthusiastic about my IT profession.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)

**G. In the near term -- what are your plans about staying in the IT profession? Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

*Note that if you are working now, we will keep your responses confidential from your employer. Your responses will not affect your employment status.*

Answer Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree to 6-Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

- 1. I have invested too much in the IT profession to consider changing now.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 2. Changing professions now would be difficult for me to do.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 3. There are no pressures to keep me from changing professions.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 4. Changing professions now could require considerable personal sacrifice.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 5. I believe people who have been trained in the IT profession have a responsibility to stay in the profession for a reasonable period of time.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 6. I do not feel any obligation to remain in the IT field.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 7. I feel a responsibility to the IT profession to continue in it.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 8. Even if it was to my advantage, I do not feel that it would be right to leave the IT profession now.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 9. I am in the IT field partly because of a sense of loyalty to it.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 10. I plan to continue to be active in the IT profession.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)
- 11. If I could change my career focus to something other than IT right now, I would.  (1)  (2)  (3)  (4)  (5)  (6)

**H. The following questions will help us to group your responses with those of other similar individuals in order to improve the accuracy of our analysis. We appreciate your frank and complete responses to the items below.**

**1. How many years of work experience in the IT profession do you have? (please use decimals for months. For example, 1.5 will indicate one year and a half).**

**2. What type of organization is/was your current or most recent IT work experience. \***

- Commercial Firm
- Professional or Consulting Organization
- Nonprofit Organization
- Government
- Education
- Industry
- Financial Institution (Insurance/Banking)
- Other -- please specify

**3. How large is/was the organization you worked at during your most recent or current IT work experience?**

- Less than 50 employees
- 50-99 employees
- 100-999 employees
- 1000 or more employees

**4. How large is/was your organization's IT department during your most recent or current IT work experience?**

- ≤ 10 full time workers
- 11 – 50 full time workers
- 51 – 100 full time workers
- > 100 full time workers

**5. What are/were your job responsibilities during your most recent or current IT work experience? (Check all that apply)**

- Computer/Information Science
- Research
- Operations Research Analysis
- Technology Evaluation

- Computer Programming
- Computer Software Engineering
- Computer Support
- Systems Analysis
- Database Administration
- Network and Systems
- Administration
- Network & Data Communications
- Project Management
- MIS management
- Systems Design
- Web Design
- Marketing
- Strategic Planning
- IT Instructing
- Other -- please specify
- Analysis

## J. Demographic Information

### 1. Please select your gender.

- Female
- Male

### 2. Please select your year of birth.

- born after 1982
- born between 1965-1981
- born between 1946-1964
- born before 1946

### 3. Select your highest degree obtained or close to obtain.

- Ph.D.
- Master
- Bachelor (B.S./B.A.)
- Certification
- Other -- please specify

### 4. Where do you live now (please select a Country)?

Country

### 5. Where are you from? (please select your country of origin)

Country or Origin

**6.What is your ethnicity?**

Ethnicity

**7.Please select your major or main field of study\***

- Information Technology and Management
- Computer Engineering
- Software Engineering
- Information Systems
- Computer Science
- Other -- please specify

**8.In your culture, to what extent is the Information Technology (IT) field a respected career choice?\***

- not respected at all
- very well respected
- somewhat respected
- highly respected

**Thank you very much for completing this survey! Your input is very valuable to us. The comment boxes below are optional, but you can use them if you would like to give us some additional feedback about the survey or this research project.**

*\*Please don't forget to click Submit form at the end of this page!*

**Please give us some constructive feedback about how we can improve this survey.**

**Do you have any additional comments or suggestions about this research project?  
Please give us your e-mail if you would like to receive the results of this study. Thanks!**

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