

## A Note from Tom Silver

Businesses have a love-hate relationship with IT security. On one hand, corporate data is increasingly at risk as more people attempt to hack their way into private data and more workers bring their own technology to the office. On the other hand, security's an area that requires an investment without an obvious, tangible return.

What's clear in the debate is that the cost of not implementing the right security measures can be dramatic: One recent report estimated a data breach can cost more than \$600,000 - at the low end of the scale - to say nothing of the damage it can cause through lost customers and a tarnished reputation.

The result is that companies will keep hiring security professionals who can both protect core systems and figure out ways to manage employee use of everything from iPods to social networking sites. Many security experts are feeling the love from their employers, most visibly through raises. According to our recent Dice Salary Survey, last year salaries for Security Analysts rose 8.4 percent.

Still, many security specialists are frustrated. Too often they swim upstream against corporate culture, human behavior and recession-inspired stinginess: Help desks ask for passwords over the phone. Companies hesitate to invest in technology whose payback won't be obvious and fast. A generation of workers raised with the Internet chafe at restrictions on its use.

For managers, it's especially important to demonstrate how you value the people who keep your technology safe. Security is showing resiliency during this recession, and those who specialize in it have a wider range of job options than many of their colleagues.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of the Dice Report.

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## Dice by the Numbers

As of February 2, 2009\*

Available Tech Jobs: 57,337

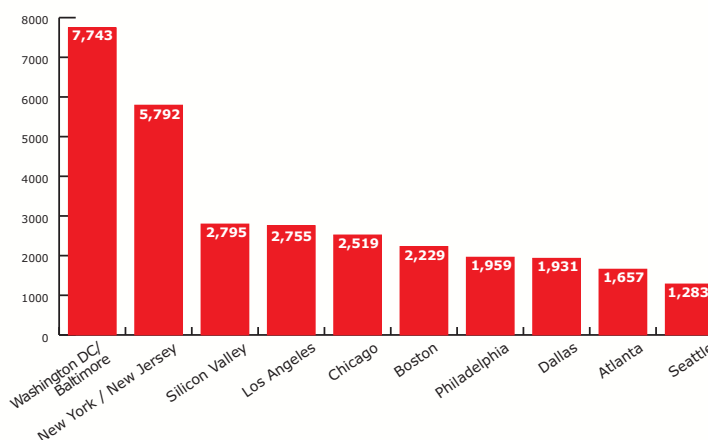
Full-time Positions: 38,421

Contract Positions: 23,955

Part-time Positions: 1,157

## Top Tech Metro Areas

Based on number of jobs posted by zip code on Dice as of February 2, 2009\*



## Top Tech Skills

Based on number of jobs posted by tech skill on Dice as of February 2, 2009\*

### Operating Systems

1. Windows – 9,794
2. Unix – 8,028

### Databases

1. Oracle – 11,122
2. SQL – 8,358

### Programming Languages

1. C, C++, C# – 10,465
2. J2EE/Java – 9,938

## Dice.com Tech Topic Poll

**Forget chocolate and flowers. For Valentine's Day I want:**

**29%** CEO buy-in to spending on security even in this downturn.

**14%** My colleagues in every department to follow security guidelines.

**57%** More staff! My network is crying out for some loving care.

\* A single job posting may reflect more than one skill, location or type of position; therefore, total figures for these attributes may be greater than total jobs posted.