

Internet-related jobs likely to expand

news

By Peter Marval

The demand for better maintenance of information flowing through the Internet will likely cause the Web-page designing field to blossom, according to a part-time instructor at the college.

Ignac Kolenko, who has been designing Web sites for about a year and a half, is teaching a six-week night course on the basic fundamentals of preparing documents for browsing on the Net.

He said the Internet is reducing many of the traditional methods of gathering information by replacing encyclopedias and becoming valuable additions to newspapers and magazines.

"Information from anywhere in the world is available at people's fingertips, and the need for more people to place information on the Net is growing," Kolenko said.

While the Internet industry may be blossoming, the goldmine was about a year ago. "We used to charge over \$1,000 a page. Now, pages go for around \$100, because everyone knows how to do it," said Kolenko, who operates his own business in Kitchener called Solution Tech Systems Inc.

That may change again. Kolenko said the basic knowledge of designing a Web page could be learned quickly. Artists and graphic designers have taken advantage of this to learn how to create highly graphical pages. As well, newer software allows for improved ease of Web page creations.

However, as the Internet becomes more

refined and people's needs more complex, Kolenko said programming skills will also be required.

"Programming databases and interactive facilities are tipping the scales back the other way," he said. "Even the best program will not give you the ability to query a database for people's names on the Net — that requires programming skills."

Kolenko, who has been in the computer industry for 13 years, said the best behind-the-scenes Internet programming skills to learn are C-programming, UNIX, shell scripting and Java.

He said these skills would better prepare Web designers for the big changes the Internet will go through when Rogers Cable will introduce cable attachments to the Internet. Cable will increase receiving speeds up to 10 times what they are now.

In addition, Bell Canada is also working on its existing system to increase speeds that may exceed those of Rogers.

"Things are changing so rapidly that people who gave up on it before because it was too slow, will eventually return," said Kolenko. He added that since the cost of computers can sometimes deter people from getting on line, within three to four years new television sets will come with Internet availability.

"In four to five years, everyone can afford to have the technology to have the fastest available link to the Internet."

While all this may sound expensive, Kolenko said competition among Internet providers would bring costs down.