

Becoming a Computer Consultant

By

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1. Who knows what a computer is?

Yes, it's a machine that helps you do a lot of things like your homework.

2. Can anyone name the two parts that make a computer run?

Hardware and Software.

3. What's the difference between Hardware and Software?

Hardware is the machine and Software is what makes it go. It's just like a car and gasoline. The car is the hardware and the gasoline is the software. You put software in the computer to make it go just like you put gasoline in the car to make it go. My company, Hendela System Consultants, Inc. makes software.

4. What kinds of software are there?

There's the Windows system. That's called the Operating System. The Operating System controls everything that's going on in the computer. It constantly waits for something to do. Did anyone press a key? Did anyone press a key? Did anyone press a key? Did anyone press a key? Only it checks a few million times per second.

Another kind of software is games. Anyone ever play a video game or one on the Internet? No matter if you play on a game boy or a PC or where ever, someone has to write the software that tells the computer what to do.

The kind of software my company makes keeps track of things. For instance, you might need to keep track of the number of shoes you have. Maybe it's only a couple of pairs. That's easy. Now what if you wanted to keep track of all the shoes in your class. Maybe you could do that too. You could ask everyone, how many shoes do you have? How about all the shoes everyone at school 2 owns? Is this getting harder now? How about all the shoes in Little Falls, New Jersey, The United States, the World? Now I can't just ask all the people in the world how many shoes they own, because maybe some of them are asleep when I want to know. How do I find out how many shoes there are? Well, I can write some software to ask the people for me. They can use the software when they

are awake in their part of the world when they want to. The information could be gathered through the Internet and people all around the world could go to my website and answer the question. These kinds of systems that store a lot of information are called database systems.

My company writes database systems. We don't really track shoes, at least not yet anyway, but we track money. Who likes money ??? Good. Well, our software asks about money and who maybe bought shoes and things like that all around the world.

5. Where does the software run?

The software that my company creates runs all over the world. It runs in places like Holland, Romania, and Russia, and Ghana, and Jakarta, and Australia, and Chile, and Mexico, and all over the United States. As a matter of fact, our software runs on every continent of the world except Antarctica. No penguins have needed our software yet!

6. How did the Hendela System Consultants, Inc. software get to all those places?

Did I walk there? No. Did I fly there? Sometimes. Mostly, my employees and I make the software work right from our homes. How many of your Mommies and Daddies drive to work? Well, that's one of the great things about running my software company. I walk down the hall and turn my computer on. I'm at work. Sometimes I have to go places to find out what my customers might need, but mostly I work straight from home. I really like that, because then I can be a little flexible so I take my son to school or pick him up or help be one of your coaches for things like soccer, or basketball, or baseball. It makes it easier since I don't waste a lot of time in traffic. I also don't usually wear a suit.

7. How do I become a computer consultant?

How many of you like school? I hope you all like school. I do. That's why I'm still going to school now. Computers change all the time so to stay in business you need to learn what's new. Here's a few older computers to show you how different they have become in only a few years. Here's my first laptop from 1988 (Toshiba T3200). That's before any of you were born. See how big and heavy it is. This laptop (IBM T23) is only about 2 years old and already there are better ones. And now, you can carry a computer in your pocket. Here's my newest one.

8. What do I like about my job?

I get to meet a lot of nice people from a lot of far away places and some not so very far places. I even have one of my employees work for me from China. I think it's really fun to learn about new things. Because things change so fast in computers, you need to keep learning and learning and learning. So do well in school, learn all you can from your teachers, and maybe you'll grow up to have your own computer company and write programs like I do.