

# TechEngage helping laid-off workers improve job skills

By Jonathan B. Cox  
RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER

RALEIGH, N.C. — As James A. White noshed fresh fruit and gourmet treats at Microsoft's campus near Seattle last August, a friend was getting his pink slip back in North Carolina.

White learned in an e-mail message that his acquaintance was laid off from a startup where he wrote computer software code.

The friend had talent, but White knew he could find work faster if he were versed in the latest technology.

"I thought, wouldn't it be nice if I could teach him all the stuff I'm learning," said White, 37, a software developer at SAS Institute in Cary, N.C., who was at Microsoft for training.

Arming him with such knowledge "would provide ... an incredible job opportunity."

That notion, enhanced by cups of coffee and a few hours at a coffee shop morphed into a bigger idea.

White decided to start a nonprofit agency, TechEngage, to help displaced software workers improve their skills.

It's a twist on the networking groups that have popped up at churches and on e-mail Listservs, mostly designed to help the unemployed get job leads.

The organization intends to hold a series of conferences to teach techies the latest Microsoft, SAS and Cisco products. It also hopes to arrange job fairs at the session.

Participants must pay a \$85 registration fee, used to cover costs to set up TechEngage and run its Web site.

"Ideally what we're trying to do, and I think what differentiates us, is to give people an opportunity to jump start their career by starting them off on a new track," said White, who is running

People let go from companies such as IBM or Nortel Networks should be interested in the program.

TechEngage in his free time.

It also plans to help local charities by steering cash and volunteers to them.

All attendees must donate \$200 to the TechEngage foundation, which will help supply technical gear to nonprofits, or give 40 hours of time to help charities set up and improve systems.

"In today's ever-changing world, if you don't have the most recent tools and skills in your back pocket, your employability and marketability as a resource becomes pretty limited," said J. Warren Pusey, 56, executive director of TechEngage, who was laid off from Nortel in October.

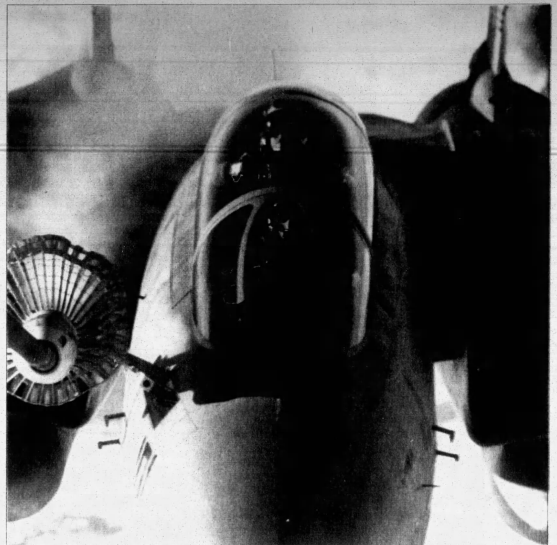
White teamed up with Connie Marthinsen, a training coordinator at SAS, the world's biggest privately held software company, to get the conference going.

They persuaded SAS, Microsoft and training companies such as Global Knowledge to donate instructors and materials.

Their classroom got space in North Carolina State, said Ellen Jane Baker, director of the school's MBA Career Resource Center, who will help with the conference.

"This is one of the few really good things to come out of the bleak job scene," Baker said.

"It's one of the few bright spots."



A U.S. Navy F-14 is refueled airborne from a KC10 plane over Turkey, before going on a mission over Iraq. The refueling plane belongs to the 10th U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Group, which is based in Bursas, Bulgaria.

## AccuWeather® FORECAST FOR THE CENTRAL COAST

AccuWeather.com

### California Weather



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

### Almanac

Santa Maria through 4 p.m. yesterday.

**Temperature**  
High 65°  
Low 36°  
Normal high 67°  
Normal low 43°

**Precipitation**  
24 hours ending 4 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.14"  
Normal month to date 0.32"  
Season to date 10.36"  
Last season to date 6.17"  
Normal season to date 13.05"

### AccuWeather UV Index™

The ultraviolet index is a guide to exposure to the sun. The higher the UV index number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

8 a.m. 1 Minimal  
Noon 3 Moderate  
4 p.m. 3 Minimal  
6 p.m. 0 Minimal

0.3 Minimal; 4.5 Low; 6-7 Moderate; 8.9 High; 10+ Very High.

### Earthquakes

Preliminary reports on earth movements, in Richter scale. Reporting period ended at 5:16 p.m. Sunday.

### Force, time & location

2.8 - 9:24 a.m. PDT, 29 km (18 mi) ESE of Shaver Lake  
2.6 - 9:16 a.m. PDT, 2 km (1 mi) N of the Geysers

SOURCE: <http://quake.usgs.gov/>  
releases/Maps/121-37.html

### Tides

Tides for Central Coast, Port San Luis

	LOW TIDE		HIGH TIDE	
	HL	HI	HL	HI
Today	7:52a	0.7	---	---
Tuesday	9:25a	0.8	12:34a	4.3
Wednesday	10:56a	0.5	1:48a	4.1
Thursday	11:57a	0.2	1:40p	2.7
			3:43a	4.1
			7:20p	3.4

### Regional Weather

**Central Coast:** Comfortable today with plenty of sunshine. Highs 60-66. Clear to partly cloudy tonight.

**Santa Ynez Valley:** Sunshine and patchy clouds today, a nice afternoon High 70-74. Tonight mostly clear.

**Cuyama Valley:** Sunny to partly cloudy today with a pleasant afternoon High 67-70. Tonight mostly clear and chilly.

**Santa Barbara County South Coast:** Becoming mostly sunny and breezy today. High 66-70. Tonight, clear and rather chilly. Low 46-50.

**Santa Barbara County Mountains:** Plenty of sunshine today, a nice afternoon High 45-60. Tonight, mainly clear.

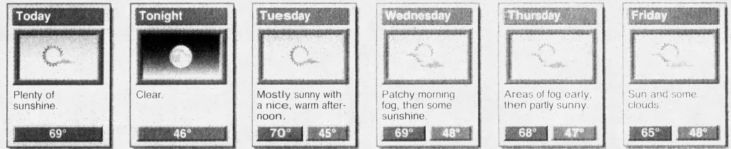
### Marine Forecast

**Point Pinos to Point Arroyo and out 60 Nautical Miles:** Wind north-northwest at 10-20 knots today. Wind waves 3-5 feet with northwest swells at 5-7 feet with westerly swells of 2-4 feet at 6-second intervals. Visibility generally greater than 5 miles.

**East Santa Barbara Channel:** Wind west today at 8-16 knots. Wind waves 1-2 feet with westerly swells of 2-4 feet at 6-second intervals. Visibility generally greater than 5 miles.

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### 5-day Forecast for Santa Maria



### Regional Cities

City	Hi	Lo	W
Santa Maria	69	46	s
Paso Robles	70	44	pc
Hearst Castle	69	46	pc
San Luis Obispo	68	45	s
Port San Luis	71	45	s
Pismo Beach	72	45	s
Guadalupe	69	46	s
Los Alamos	77	47	s
Cuyama	67	43	s
Vandenberg AFB	64	43	s
Lompoc	62	58	s
Santa Ynez	74	46	s
Santa Barbara	69	49	s

### California Cities

City	Hi	Lo	W
Bakersfield	70	49	s
Albany	67	33	pc
Chico Lake	74	44	pc
Dough Valley	76	51	pc
Edwards AFB	75	41	s
Eureka	61	46	pc
Fresno	72	54	s
Los Angeles	62	46	s
Modesto	70	48	pc
Monterey	61	48	pc
Mount Shasta	55	40	pc
Oakland	61	48	pc
Palm Springs	83	60	pc
Petaluma	72	41	s
Redding	66	50	pc
Sacramento	71	49	pc
San Francisco	64	52	pc
San Jose	68	49	pc
Santa Ana	70	53	s
Santa Cruz	65	49	pc
Santa Rosa	71	46	pc
S. Lake Tahoe	55	25	pc
Siskiyou	72	47	pc
Ukiah	70	46	pc
Ventura	68	47	pc
Yuba City	62	40	s
Yosemite	60	33	pc

### AccuWeather RealFeel™

The exclusive AccuWeather RealFeel™ Temperature™ is an index that combines the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body everything that affects how warm or cold a person feels.

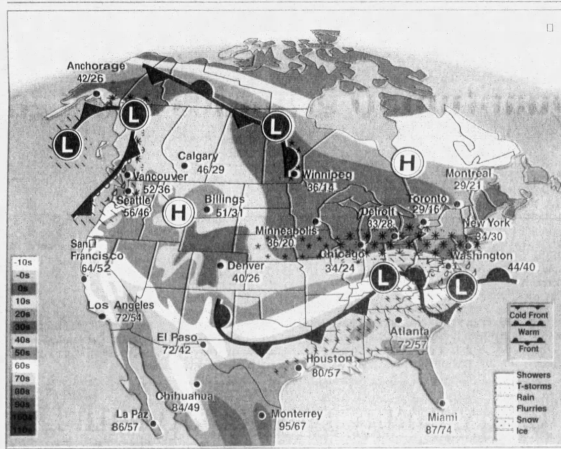
8 a.m. 44°  
Noon 59°  
4 p.m. 65°

### Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 6:41 a.m.  
Sunset tonight 7:23 p.m.  
Moonrise today 10:07 a.m.  
Moonset today 12:16 a.m.  
Sunrise tomorrow 6:40 a.m.  
Sunset tomorrow 7:28 p.m.  
Moonrise tomorrow 10:54 a.m.  
Moonset tomorrow 1:13 a.m.

First Full Last New  
Apr 9 Apr 16 Apr 23 May 1

### National Weather



Shown are main positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands, no highs for the day. Forecast high/low temps. Hires are given for selected cities.

**Yesterday's National High/Low:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High: 90 in Fort Myers, FL. Low: 17 in Clarksburg, MI

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	72	57	sh	Chicago	52	22	s
Atlanta	40	35	sn	Chicago	64	69	pc
Baltimore	38	35	sn	Chicago	60	57	f
Boston	24	20	sn	Chicago	46	33	f
Charleston, S.C.	60	62	f	Chicago	42	29	f
Charleston, W.Va.	61	41	sh	Chicago	73	53	s
Chicago	44	24	sn	Chicago	74	55	s
Cleveland	39	30	sn	Chicago	76	58	s
Dallas	70	43	pc	Chicago	87	74	pc
Dallas	40	26	f	Chicago	30	25	pc
Dallas	31	28	sn	Chicago	71	44	pc
Faribault	27	6	pc	Chicago	75	65	f

### World Cities

City	Hi	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W
Amsterdam	41	29	pc	London	50	35	pc
Amsterdam	58	38	f	London	69	44	pc
Amsterdam	42	29	f	London	62	54	f
Amsterdam	32	29	f	London	34	23	f
Amsterdam	55	43	f	London	88	74	pc
Amsterdam	38	20	f	London	44	28	f
Amsterdam	40	22	f	London	43	23	pc

Weather (W): s=sunny, pc=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, t=thunderstorms, f=fog, sn=snow, fl=sleet, br=sleet, dr=dry, r=rain, sr=snow, bk=snow, ns=snow, h=ice

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**SAUTED WHITEFISH**  
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**MEAT LOAF**  
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300 Five Cities Dr. Pismo Beach, CA 93449 (805) 773-8243

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\*served with fries or Potato Salad

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