

- I. **Source** – Tech Collective, “Why IT Works” report.
- II. **Credibility of Source** – Mix of statistical and subjective/anecdotal information, specific to Rhode Island. Credible source.
- III. **Summary of Content and Conclusions** - This is a specific ongoing study about the State of Rhode Island’s concerns over technology skills gaps in the IT industry in their state. The first report was generated in 2007 and this is a refresh. Rhode Island aligns well with the rest of the country stating that “only 65% saying their current IT talent base is ‘adequate’...” They break the skills gap into technical and professional skillsets:

“Skills gap findings in the report highlight employers’ critical need for IT talent with both technical and professional skill sets. Top technical needs include: project management, programming, web design, software development, and business analysts. Top professional skills include: big-picture perspective, leadership, and the ability to understand business needs. In an industry that is becoming continuously service-oriented and customer-facing, being able to communicate with “non-technical” clients and relate technological capabilities to benefit the business is of the highest value to employers.”

This section aligns well with other publications’ representations of common industry gaps. The technical skills are a requirement, but being able to do the technical work is only half the battle. Implementation requires execution and communication. And the comment about being able to explain technical issues to non-technical clients being of “highest value to employers” is a great one-line summary of the need to teach the soft skills.
- IV. **Relevance to the Department of ECE** – While the report is specific to RI, it’s still relevant information. They tied it to national averages and other reports indicate that Texas is close enough to these averages for the concerns and conclusions to be useful.
- V. **Recommendations for the Department or the IAB** – Tech Collective suggested the implementation of an ongoing monthly forum to discuss results of the ongoing studies and develop initiatives to help close the gaps. The cadence is too often, but UH could try to get access to the reports and studies on a regular basis to stay informed and decide whether or not to adopt some of the initiatives.
- VI. **Contact Information**
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The full article can be found at:

http://www.tech-collective.org/index.php?option=com_news_items&task=viewNews&pk_news_itemsID=4086

