



Elliott Donson — the man, the myth, the Information Technology legend



For Elliott Donson, working at Lincoln Hospital is an opportunity to find a professional home — to grow some roots.

“Coming here has been a change in scenery, but mostly, it’s a chance to be in one place,” he explains. “It’s nice to have one employer and the time to develop ideas and skills I’ve never had the chance to work on before.”

In short, our new computer guru is a rolling stone ready to shed some stress and gather a little moss.

And speaking of that rolling stone, Elliott has been a man on the move since graduating high school.

“I went to junior college for a while, but didn’t know what I wanted to do and it just wasn’t happening for me at that point.” Hoping for direction, he joined the Navy in 1990.

“I fixed a lot of radios and radar systems,” he laughs of his Naval electronics tech days. “That’s really where I started working on computers. There were only seven computer guys servicing the entire base. It looked like a good opportunity to learn something new so I requested a transfer from electronics to computers.”

When he got out of the service, he soon discovered that his transfer to the computer workbench was a life preserver. “I found out really quick that electronics doesn’t pay well in the civilian world.” But computers were booming. There were plenty of jobs available and most were well paid.

Elliott worked for STC in Cheney for three months, but without official Novell & Microsoft network certifications, found himself needing some specialized training to move up in the industry, which was getting ready to explode both financially and technologically.

“I went to Career Path Services because I knew there was a lot of money out there for people to get trained. I was lucky. People with electronics skills were qualified for computer retraining.”

He spent the next seven months earning his Novell certification through New Horizons in Spokane and was snapped up by Advanced Computer Systems (ACS). “Basically, I fixed PCs, printers and set up networks for their clients,” which numbered in the hundreds. Elliott was getting great experience, but worked with different clients on different problems and different machinery every day.

The job, says Elliott, just wasn’t fulfilling.

“It was about making a quick diagnosis, fixing the problem right away and keeping the clients happy.” One of those clients was Lincoln Hospital — his new professional home.

“Everyone’s incredibly nice. It was nice to know many of the people here before I took the job,” he smiles. “Being in one place will be different for me, but I like it here. It’s less stressful and I have time to have real goals. ”

Like finish his AA degree at SCC and, of course, plot the technological future of Lincoln Hospital. “I’d love to get an exchange mail server here and local e-mail,” he says, already planning.

Elliott says he’s available for most kinds of technological support. “But I don’t know if you need something unless you call me directly. I’m a good listener and have the time to help.”