

THE IDEAL

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You are hereby authorized to be a dreamer of dreams--to think of, and describe what in your eyes is the ideal in the whole arena of specifications writing.

Now let's see what spark we can give you to stimulate your thought—

- Reasonable deadlines for your project work.
- Adequate budgets to accomplish the project program.
- Cooperative colleagues; experienced, or smart enough to ask good questions. and to seek your advice before going off half-cocked.
- Product and manufacturers' rep who have no penchant or even capacity for lying, or shading the truth.
- Support, understanding and respect from those above you in the firm.
- Openness in the firm for new ideas, and ways to make specs even better.
- Project Managers who seek your advice, and use you as a true resource (and not purely a problem solver).
- An active CSI chapter with deeply interested members and real influence in the professional community, as well as in the academic and general community.
- Funding and encouragement for attending the CSI convention every year wherever it is held.
- Forums and formats for good, deep discussions with wonderful colleagues across the country.
- Colleagues with professionalism and a sense of humor; serious and knowledgeable but still open to snickers, giggles and belly-laughs.
- Colleagues who are both patient and tolerant (with me).
- Opportunities to work with students and student programs to elevate the level of knowledge of specifications, and interest in their writing.
- Opportunity to mentor, train, and educate staffers in regard to specs.
- Repro houses that are "on the stick", understand our problems and needs and meet them successfully, and consistently.
- Blessings of good health and safe surroundings.
- Merit raises that are truly just that (and the capacity to earn them).
- A good backlog of work, waiting in line patiently.
- Variety in work and projects to stimulate research and "newness" in me.
- Continued good food in lunch and learns.
- A major "explosion" in the understanding of, respect for, use of, and compliance with our work and work products, on the part of parties on the project.
- Maximal collaboration, cooperation and "teaming" on all projects.
- Client support, understanding and relationship consistent with our intent, work and work products; being open to our suggestions.

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There may be other things that you would cast as "ideal", but that is for you to decide. The chances of achieving all these are low, but then many of them are present even now in very good order if not the ideal configuration. Much of our work effort is decent, with a sprinkling of irritations just to keep us on our toes and ----human!

So, just as we seek our individual "perfection", as an on-going task, we should also look around, maintain the effort, look to make it stronger and better and continue the quest for the "ideal".

No harm in sincerely trying both!