

Web outsourcing soars

Sophie Foster | The Courier Mail | April 27, 2012 12:00AM



PROFIT DRIVERS: Darryl Posgate and Matthew Hanson have written a successful iPhone software application. Picture: Marc Robertson
Source: The Courier-Mail

JOBS are going gangbusters in the virtual world, led by a mammoth 303 per cent growth in outsourcing work internationally, says one of the world's largest outsourcing sites, Australian-made Freelancer.com.

Of more than 170,000 jobs posted on the site in the first quarter, business process outsourcing topped the food chain, with 5150 jobs listed.

"We have seen a huge increase in outsourcing on the whole, with businesses rethinking their strategies moving into the New Year," said Freelancer.com chief executive Matt Barrie. The insight was pulled from 3.3 million users and 1.5 million projects worldwide.

"In a difficult global economic climate, businesses are looking to optimise their cost base and are therefore looking to online freelancers as a profit driver," he said.

"This has seen significant job growth on the Freelancer.com marketplace despite challenging broader economic conditions."

One area that shows no sign of slowing, Mr Barrie said, was mobile app development which continued to rise with smart phone use.

It found that Android operating system development jobs were up by 26 per cent to 2863 with iPhone up by 27 per cent to 4318 jobs and iPad up by 19 per cent to 1828 jobs.

"The demand for mobile developers has been insatiable and will continue to grow as more businesses seek to offer their products and services on these platforms."

Queenslanders Matt Hanson and Darryl Posgate are already on to the growth trend with their InspectionsApps business - an iPhone app that offers multiple checklist inspections for industries as varied as government, council, real estate and mining.

"It is a scheduler, an email tracker, a document tracker, a forward planner, it can auto-invoice, create any layout PDF report, and automatically request repair quotes. It has management reports and can be coded simply to provide email reminders, or specific prompts at specific times," Mr Hanson said.

The Department of Transport & Main Roads uses the application to manage more than 3000 properties statewide, which director property management Michael Campbell said had significantly improved internal controls and accuracy of reports.