# BUSINESS ANALYST



**Name:** Jim Soper
**Employer:** PotashCorp
**Education:** Computer Information Systems Diploma

**DETAILS OF THE JOB**: As a Business Analyst the primary duties are to: improve the company's efficiency, productivity and profitability; improve the quality of products and services being delivered by the Information Technology (IT) Department; and provide a strong link between business departments and the IT Department.

**A TYPICAL DAY:** An IT Business Analyst's role is to be the link between the department making the request and the team within the IT Department that will build the system. Jim and his team meet with various departments within the company to discuss current and future initiatives and how they might relate to their IT needs. For example, a department might be looking at improving their current processes or existing products, or need assistance in designing a new process or technology. Based on the requirements we gather, the IT department can then make a qualified proposal on how long it will take to complete the request, including resource costs, etc.

Another part of Jim's job is coordinating the various teams within the IT Department. In a large corporation, there are a lot of requests for custom application development.

**SKILLS NEEDED:**
- Good communication skills, open-minded, a good listener and note taker
- A visionary to take requests obtained from the Business Unit and turn them into an overall project

**COMMENT:** "I have always been a social person and enjoy interacting and talking with people. What people don't realize is that IT does involve a varying degree of interaction with people. I was immediately drawn to the idea of working with people and trying to solve their issues. And here we are 15 years later and I'm still loving what I do."

**WHERE CAN I GO TO GET AN EDUCATION**? U. of Regina, U. of Saskatchewan; Saskatchewan Polytechnic, SIIT

**HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES:** Computer Science 20/30, English 30, Information Processing10/20/30, Mathematics 30

**NOC:2171**

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