

A CONTINUED EFFORT

Having received a diploma in mechanical engineering from Pune and a degree in Bachelors in Electronics (BE) from Mumbai, Santosh Sawant, VP-enterprise application services, Patni has been with the same organisation for almost 21 years now. "My journey here began as a software engineer trainee. Back in those days, as software was not a widely taught subject in academics, most people that joined the software industry were academically from an engineering background. I had two options as part of my campus placements and I opted for Patni because software engineering seemed like a promising field," expresses Sawant.

So, how did working for the same organisation all along happen? "Patni was my first job out of campus. I decided to give myself about six months to dabble in a career in the IT industry. By the end of that timeframe, I had almost decided to shift back to the manufacturing industry, but my life changed for the better. I was initially working for some domestic customer assignments but was soon shifted to a different technology platform that seemed far more interesting to me. Going ahead, my work and role got more challenging and there was a lot of exposure towards understanding the nuances of being a good software professional," explains Sawant.

Working for just one organisation for so many years is certainly not an easy task. "Although I have been with Patni for almost 21 years now, the level of exposure and learning derived working for the same organisation are much more than what I would have attained working in multiple organisations. My role, assignments, job description, processes, etc have varied drastically over the years giving me a chance to expand my horizons. Personally speaking, taking on very challenging roles is very stimulating to keep up the learning curve as a professional. The best part about being loyal to an organisation throughout your career is the immense sense of achievement and fulfilment that one gets by adding value to the employer and vice versa," Sawant elucidates. He con-

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES CHENNAI TUESDAY • 26 JANUARY 2010 for careers in the fast lane

cludes with a piece of advice and says, "The advice that I would like to give is that irrespective of whether one stays in the same company or changes jobs, always learn to be patient while considering options."

LOYALTY COUNTS

With a bachelors in mathematics at Meenakshi College for Women, Chennai and a diploma in computer science from Computer Point, Sudha Jagadish, chief operations officer, Dax Networks joined Dax Networks in January 1989. "Like many others in India, I, too, wanted to be a part of the Indian IT boom. I started my career in Dax Networks

excitement of working in a growing industry and the numerous growth opportunities are probably the most important reasons for me, having remained with Dax for over two decades now. Working in different departments at Dax, I was exposed to a wide range of experiences and presented with numerous opportunities to grow, both personally and professionally." For Jagadish, the journey from a systems associate to the COO has been very exciting and fulfilling, inspite of a few challenges along the way.

THE GROWTH TRAJECTORY

Sripriya Kalyanasundaram, assistant VP, testing practice, Cognizant enjoys taking up new challenges and it was this attribute of hers that brought her to the IT industry, although her grounding was in semi-conductors and diodes and not programming. "I joined Cognizant in the 1995 as a programmer analyst trainee in the company's QA division. Today, quality is one of the topmost priorities of CIOs and IT heads, but back then, it was a little known area and was primarily, seen as an overhead; also that Cognizant's testing practice and I have grown in parallel, is an extremely satisfying thought," she expresses. Talking about how she has managed to spend so many years in the same organisation, Kalyanasundaram shares, "This is my first job. As an engineering graduate fresh out of campus, I was eager to learn things that were not taught in the classroom. Looking back at the past 16 years, I do not really feel that I have been working with the same organisation. I have been a part of several teams, servicing clients from different geographies and industries. Besides, the challenge of living up to the trust and confidence that the organisation has placed in me and surpassing the company's expectations have been a great motivator that has spurred me to reach newer heights." For Kalyanasundaram, it is the learning from one's own experience that makes the difference.

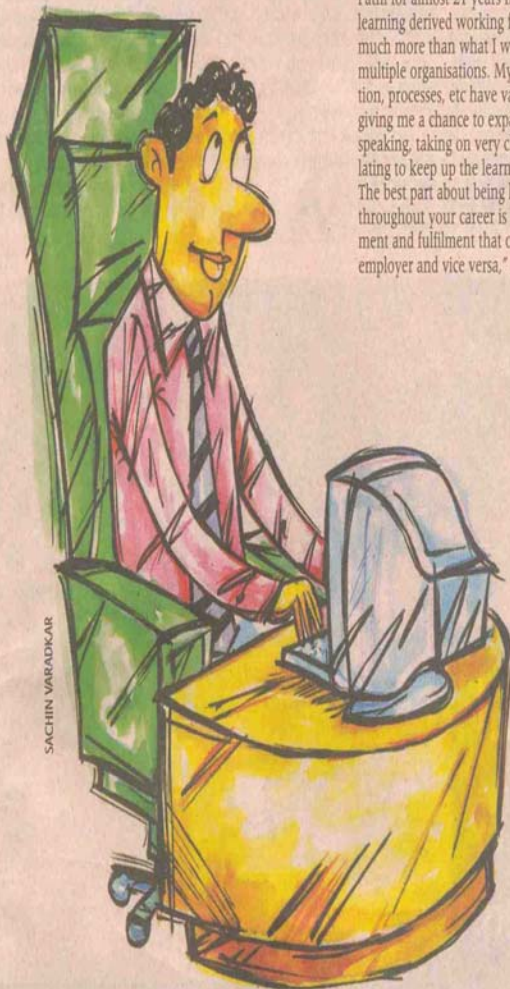
In these fast moving times, where no one wants to halt at any given destination for too long, these people certainly have set an example of commitment and loyalty for others to look up to and follow.

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While most working professionals believe in jumping from one organisation to another, in an endeavour to enhance their career prospects, there are some who choose to stick to one company and prove their loyalty for a lifetime. Yasmin Taj meets three such lifetime members of three organisations and scripts their success stories

LIFETIME MEMBERS!

as a trainee systems associate working in the networking department. Through the years, I subsequently climbed up the corporate ladder handling several challenges in other departments such as sales, purchase, credit control and HR to reach my current position," she informs. Talking about how she ended up working for the same organisation for so long, Jagadish says, "This is my first job. The constant



SACHIN VARADKAR