

Workload crisis on the way?

By Jennifer Kahnweiler, Tuesday, May 30, 2006, 08:03 AM
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

According to a recent survey by Randstad, more Americans are skipping lunch breaks and working longer hours.

In my consulting work, I have also heard the rumblings of employee protests getting louder. Cries for work/life balance are coming up high on company surveys.

Is the competitive corporate culture too heavily entrenched in long hours to switch directions at this point?

Some say yes, it is only getting worse as talent shortages increase. Others point to encouraging signs like companies that are closely examining how the work gets done to see what tasks can go or be reassigned.

A combination of better time and workload management may help.

That does no good, however, if the organization you work in does not model sane workloads. My former boss sent email's at 2 a.m. and expected replies by my first cup of coffee.

Do you see any signs of push back and change out there? Are people afraid to speak up when their job future is uncertain? Is your job consuming your personal life?