



readers' lives **Mike Bienvenu**

Slash friction

He loves his job – but don't ask him for a game of golf

What is your golf handicap?

Picking up the clubs is my handicap. My friends call me 'slasher' and no longer ask me to play with them.

How many beers before you fall over?

I usually lose count and fall asleep.

Which car or other vehicle do you drive?

An Audi S4 Bi-Turbo.

Describe your job and say why you enjoy it.

I get to play with all the latest toys as well as looking after the support team, a great bunch of lads.

What was your first job?

Working for a company that made compilers and programming tools for Unix-based operating systems.

Why did you leave?

I left because the pay was bad. I doubled it in my next job, as a systems operator.

Have you ever been sacked?

Never. I walked out once after falling out with my boss, but I had another job lined up in another part of the company so I had the last laugh.

How did you get into IT?

My grandmother bought me several computers when I was younger: a ZX81, a Vic-20 and a Spectrum 48k.

Tell us your favourite joke or the joke you heard most recently.

How do you kill a circus? You go for the juggler!

Have you ever written a computer program?

My GCSE project was in Basic and was a hotel registration program. I even managed to sell a couple of copies to some local guesthouses.

What is the worst accident you have had in your company car without the company finding out?

In my younger years I drove into the back of a taxi while looking at a spectacular pair of legs walking down the street.

What would you have done if you had not gone into IT?

I wanted to fly fast jets or join the Marines but I didn't pass the eyesight test for either.

Can you be too rich? Are you sure?

Yes, and no.

Mike Bienvenu is technical director at Softek.