

# Talk of the bay: Tech data's trek into future pure speculation

By Times staff writers

Published June 21, 2007

---

Is Clearwater's Tech Data Corp. - by revenue, Tampa Bay's biggest public company, No. 2 in the state and No. 109 on the Fortune 500 - a potential acquisition target? That's the gist of a story in the Financial Times this week that says Tech Data could follow in the footsteps of competitor CDW, which agreed to be bought by a private equity firm. The FT story describes this scenario: First, Tech Data lost money last year and has been closing portions of its overseas business. Second, the CEO swap from Steve Raymund to new chief Bob Dutkowsky means opportunities for new directions. Third - and speculation though this is, it's fun - Dutkowsky was an adviser to former IBM chairman Lou Gerstner. And Gerstner now chairs the Washington-based Carlyle Group, renowned for its savvy purchases of corporations in transition. Shown the Financial Times story, Dutkowsky via e-mail told the St. Petersburg Times that "we don't comment on rumors."

## Insurers' site gets taken by storm

Someone in Europe figured out how to bring down the Florida insurance market. Not the companies - just their industry Web site. The Web site for the Florida Insurance Council, a Tallahassee-based trade group that represents most of the insurance companies in the state, was shut down recently by a hacker who used the site to illegally download music and books and then sell them. When the hacker was finished, he or she destroyed the site. "It wasn't some irate insurance consumer, " joked FIC executive president Sam Miller. Much of the data, which contained everything from position papers to industry news, was saved elsewhere, Miller said, and the new, rebuilt site ([www.flains.org](http://www.flains.org)) should be complete in a few weeks.

## Orlando's future: Mickey and meds?

As if biotech competition wasn't brisk enough, Orlando on Wednesday kicked off its new effort to become a biomedical center with the launch of "bioOrlando." Part of the Metro Orlando Economic Development Council, bioOrlando will start by promoting the metro area and sending a business mission to Europe within the year.

---

© 2007 • All Rights Reserved • St. Petersburg Times

490 First Avenue South • St. Petersburg, FL 33701 • 727-893-8111

[Contact the Times](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Standard of Accuracy](#) | [Terms, Conditions & Copyright](#)