



Photo by David Dean

FUN AND GAMES: Pandell employees balance work and play. From left to right: **David Beresford, Cleave Whitaker** and **Drew Turner**

Rockin' Office

**PANDELL
TECHNOLOGY
CORP.**

PURPOSE:
Software designer

**NUMBER OF
EMPLOYEES:**
29 full time
2 part time

Writing killer code for software programs isn't on most people's to-do lists before they die. But for Cleave Whitaker, a developer at Pandell Technology Corporation, it's one of the reasons he loves his job. He gets to learn and grow.

Whitaker hears stories from unlucky ones, people working at companies where they're pigeonholed into a role. "I have a feeling if I was in another company, they would put me in a corner and I'd just write code day-to-day, nine-to-five, the same thing over and over. No creativity, no challenge."

Pandell, a software designer largely for the oil and gas sector, is housed in a labyrinthine series of rooms in the old Currie army barracks. Touring the office, one passes by hives of desks, a Transformers poster, a games room – which

boasts a Nintendo Wii and a PlayStation 3 – and, surprisingly, one goes through the CEO's office, who waves, "Hello," while en route to a fully stocked kitchen.

Hold on, the CEO's office?

That laidback sense of office intimacy appeals to Joel Pollard, Pandell's business manager. "We have pretty open communication from top to bottom," he says. "The newest guy in the office can literally walk through the president's office to get a cup of coffee, interrupt and say, 'Hi.'"

During the workday, Pandell's geek squad sometimes checks out matinees of the newest sci-fi blockbuster on the company's dime. And money gained from the company's profit sharing plan lets them buy the latest high-tech gadgets – or whatever they like.

Still, the best thing about Pandell, most employees insist, is the lackadaisical attitude. Work schedules aren't set in stone, neither is the dress code, which holds definite appeal for Pollard. "I literally plan my shaving around my client commitments," he jokes. "I shaved for you today."

– Drew Anderson

• "A pop machine with a virtually unlimited supply of Coke. Because I'm a programmer, I'm addicted to it."

• "The environment is relaxed and stress free, likely due to the fact that they have a games room that everyone takes advantage of."

• "They feed me and provide great coffee."