

**Do we need less government or better regulation? Where's the balance for the 21st century?**

**Manick:** Government intervention needs to be effective, but it doesn't need to be large to be effective. Correctly regulating the banking system would probably require fewer bureaucrats, not more. Developing domestic energy would certainly require less money, not more, and less government spending, not more. Reducing the trade imbalance with China would require less government spending, not more.

**What real steps can the U.S. take to fix the trade imbalance with China's currency?**

**Manick:** The U.S. government could do a number of things. It could bring a case in the World Trade Organization that Chinese government intervention violates our WTO rights and get a remedy that way. We could impose a tax on the conversion of dollars into yuan to raise the cost to American business investing and purchasing in China. That, in turn, would make the price of Chinese goods and Chinese investments reflect what they would if the yuan were properly valued. We could find China completely out of compliance with its WTO obligations and suspend recognition and apply the general tariff schedule, which is applied to non-WTO members. There are lots of things that we could do. But President Obama refuses to even discuss them. His administration doesn't even invite its advocates of these positions. Blind to facts, deaf to reason, the Obama administration continues quiet diplomacy in which Beijing plays Washington for fools.

**Why is that?**

**Manick:** I don't think it's fair to ask me why the administration continues to pursue policies that have failed in the past. Take that question to the Obama administration. It's high time the press held the Obama administration accountable for strategies that repeatedly fail.

**What's your view on healthcare reform and how its effects will continue to unfold?**

**Manick:** The healthcare industry is on the wrong track. Costs continue to rise too rapidly. We pay 50 percent more for healthcare than the Germans, who also have a private system. Healthcare has to be a regulated sector because it is already regulated, and it's regulated every place else. We just do it very ineffectively. For example, the Germans pay \$400 a year for prescription drugs per person. We spend \$800 per year. They just more effectively manage their patent system and the prices that they permit the government to reimburse on drugs. If we do not adopt reforms that mirror German and Dutch systems, the healthcare system will be so expensive that business simply can't afford it and will have to let their employees. "No healthcare if you want a job." We are not that far away from that.

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**HOW BUSINESS OWNERS LIKE YOU ARE PREPARING FOR NEXT YEAR**

By Dan Mills

We've heard what the economists predict for next year – there's no question the climate will be tough – but how will those forecasts affect you and your business? These local CEOs looked into their crystal balls and weighed in on how they're going to grab opportunity by the horns and create success.



**HEINAN LANDA**

CEO, *Optimal Networks*

**Industry:** IT  
Many of our clients have, admirably, hunkered down and avoided major purchases over the past few years. However, no one can stop the rapid aging of technology equipment, and it is essential for companies to have good technology in order to continue to compete in these volatile economic times. I'm expecting many of our clients to refresh their IT systems out of necessity and to look to us to assist them in doing this with minimal disruption.



**KEVIN PARKER**

president, CEO and chairman, *Deltek*

**Industry:** Software and information solutions  
In Deltek's case, we made a concerted effort to diversify our solutions and the markets we target while, at the same time, staying true to our heritage of selling enterprise software and information solutions to project-focused industries – including