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# Different Careers in Information Technology

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Information technology (IT) is such an integral part of the business world these days, it's almost a challenge to think of it as a career path in its own right. Most people have at least some knowledge of computers and since they became standard in schools, levels of familiarity with IT can only increase.

So if most people working these days can work a computer, what constitutes a career in computing? Which are the more specialised computing and information technology jobs?

## Systems analysts and designers

This involves investigating and analysing a business problem, designing a system to deal with the problem, then setting up that system.

The role requires strong communication skills in order to research the problem with people who are non-technical. Analysts and designers need to explain the solution and the reasons it is an effective solution. Generally, analysts have some background in programming, but may also come from a business background.

## Computer programmers

Programmers write instructions for computers in languages they can interpret. They work in conjunction with the systems analysts to design programmes appropriate to the task.

Programmers need to be patient and meticulous people, as they must keep accurate and detailed records of the program for later maintenance. They mostly work with other people, including clients and potential users of their systems, so need to be good at teamwork.

## Software engineering & design

This role involves working on complex, advanced software used to control technological equipment and on applications of programmes for business use.

Software engineers need a strong technical background. They need to understand in detail how both the hardware and the software work and generally have a degree in software engineering or computer science. Software engineers are increasingly in demand.

## End-user and technical support

This is the help desk function. Those using hardware and software need technical support, so those supporting these users on a day-to-day basis need to have a wide range of knowledge.

Support staff are usually recruited from people with experience both of the computer system being used and of the particular business area. They need to have strong communication skills and an ability to understand and explain technical issues in 'laymans' language. This can be a good entry point for people without technical qualifications in IT.

## Information technology manager

This is the person who has responsibility for ensuring the organisation has the right equipment and its people are properly trained, so the workload can be done effectively and on time.

This role involves management skills, such as keeping within budget, keeping up-to-date with new computing developments, negotiating with suppliers and adapting to developments in the organisation. It also needs substantial computing experience, especially in systems analysis.

## Network or communications manager

Within an organisation, there will be communication systems, such as intranets, email, telephone or VoIP and other mobile equipment, all of which needs co-ordinating. That's the job of the network manager.

As well as general management skills, the communications manager will need to keep up-to-date with many changes and improvements in all relevant technology. They are likely to have a degree in telecommunications or computer science, plus years of experience in technical support.

If it's the IT itself which interests you, these are roles you could consider as a career.

John Mce writes articles on a number of subjects including Computer, Internet and IT jobs. Find local jobs in Sheffield and Kingston and elsewhere in the UK.

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