

Careers in IT

1. Web Designer



The work

Website designers, sometimes known as web authors, design the pages that make up a website. They use a combination of programming techniques and web design software to build or enhance sites.



Skills & Interests

- HTML
- XML
- ASP
- DHTML
- Javascript
- Strong creative skills
- CSS
- PHP

Entry

Most employers want to see evidence of experience as well as qualifications - this could be paid or voluntary. You will need a portfolio of work demonstrating your creative and technical ability, usually in the form of a CD, DVD or 'live' website.

Many people enter this field after completing a foundation degree, BTEC HNC/HND or degree in a subject related to design and multimedia. Courses include web design, web development, multimedia design, digital media development and interactive computing.

Annual Income

New entrants: £15,000 - £18,000

Experienced designers: Up to £25,000

Senior designers: £30,000 +



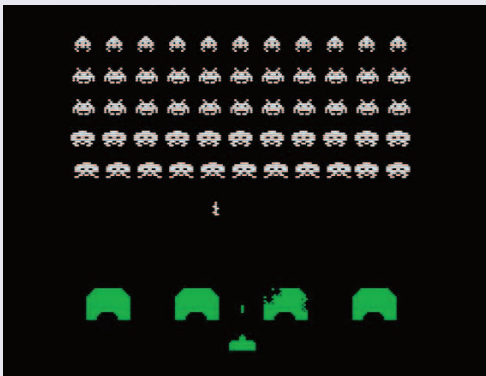
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2. Computer Games Developer



The work

Computer games developers produce games for PCs, games consoles, the internet and mobile phones. They may develop new games or update existing titles.



Skills & Interests

- Wide knowledge of computer games
- Creativity and imagination
- Ability to work under pressure

Entry

To work as a games designer, artist or programmer, you will usually need a relevant HND or degree.

Several colleges and universities offer foundation degrees, HNDs, degrees and postgraduate courses in computer games design or development. You could also get into the industry with other relevant degree subjects like computer science or software engineering, animation, graphic design, fine art or illustration, interactive media, maths or physics and multimedia design.

Annual Income

Games testers: £10,000 - £15,000

Graduates: £17,000 - £20,000

Experienced developers: £40,000 +



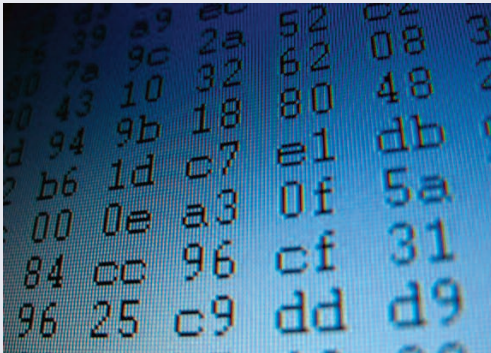
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3. Software Developer



The work

Software developers, or software engineers, are responsible for writing specifications, designing, developing, installing, testing and maintaining software applications.



Skills & Interests

- Hardware
- Software
- Programming Languages (eg. Java)
- Project Management Skills

Entry

The most usual entry requirement for a career as a software developer is a degree or BTEC HNC/HND. Relevant subjects include computer science/studies, information technology, software development, software engineering, business information systems.

For a degree, you usually need at least five GCSEs (A-C) and two or three A levels (including maths or computing), or equivalent qualifications such as vocational A levels.

Annual Income

New entrants: £19,500 - £24,000

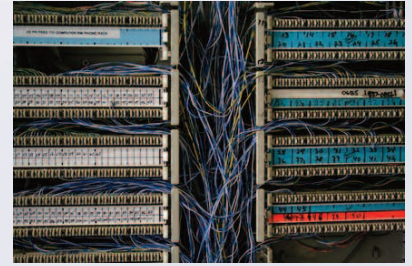
Experienced staff: Up to £38,000

Senior developers: £45,000 +



Careers in IT

4. Network Engineer



The work

Network engineers, sometimes known as network administrators, are responsible for installing and maintaining computer communication networks within an organisation or between organisations.



Skills & Interests

- Analytical skills
- Networking hardware
- Explaining technical issues clearly
- Prioritising
- Teamwork

Entry

If you are aged under 24, you may be able to gain an apprentice technician position with an IT company or within the IT department of a commercial or public organisation. You will need four or five GCSEs (A-C) including maths, English and information Technology.

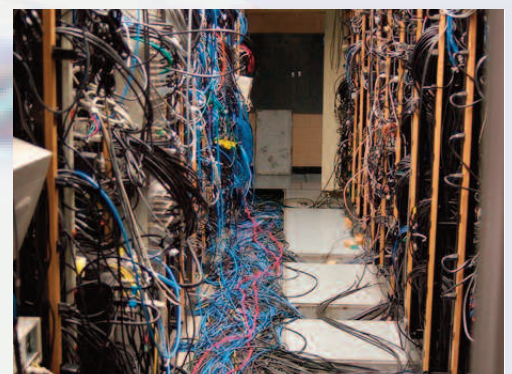
Although not essential, your prospects may be improved if you hold a BTEC HNC/HND, foundation degree or degree. Relevant subjects include computer networks, networks and communications systems, internet communications and networks and computer science.

Annual Income

New entrants: £12,000 - £17,000

Experienced engineers: Up to £31,000

Senior engineers: £35,000 +



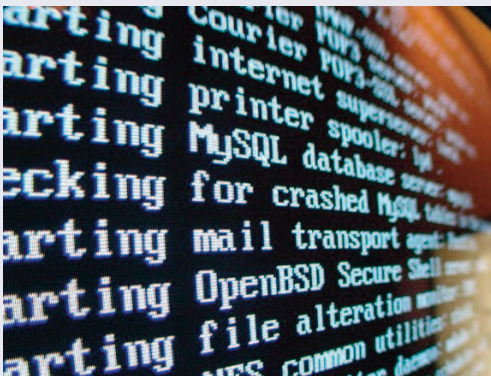
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5. Systems Analyst



The work

Systems analysts are IT specialists who are brought in by companies to evaluate their IT systems to identify areas for improvement and design and integrate computer-based solutions .



Skills & Interests

- Hardware
- Software
- Programming
- Communication
- Project management

Entry

The most usual entry requirement for a career as a systems analyst is a degree or BTEC HNC/HND. Relevant subjects include: computer science/studies, information management systems and business information systems. It is recommended that you look for a course which focuses on business as well as the technical elements.

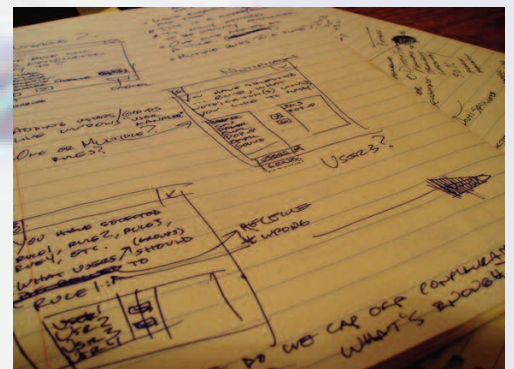
Non-IT graduates can study for postgraduate IT conversion courses although companies may still require some industry experience to back this up.

Annual Income

New entrants: £19,000 - £24,000

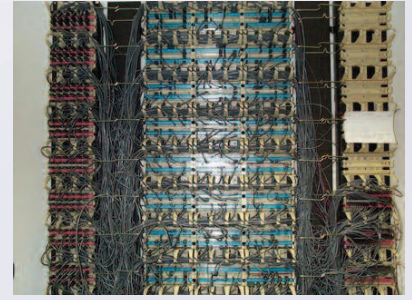
Experienced analysts: Up to £40,000

Senior analysts: £50,000 +



Careers in IT

6. Network Manager



The work

Network managers have a range of responsibilities including evaluating, designing, implementing and administering computer network systems within an organisation or between organisations.



Skills & Interests

- Network hardware
- Project management
- Following IT trends
- Negotiation
- Teamwork
- Planning

Entry

Network managers normally have several years' experience, working as a network engineer, a similar IT support role or as a manager in another area of IT.

You may be able to take up a trainee position as a manager with a company if you hold a BTEC HNC/HND, foundation degree or degree in a relevant subject, such as computer networks, networks and communications systems, internet communications and networks, computer science (networking) or digital communications.

Annual Income

New managers: £24,000 - £31,000

Experienced managers: Up to £47,000

Senior managers: £50,000 +



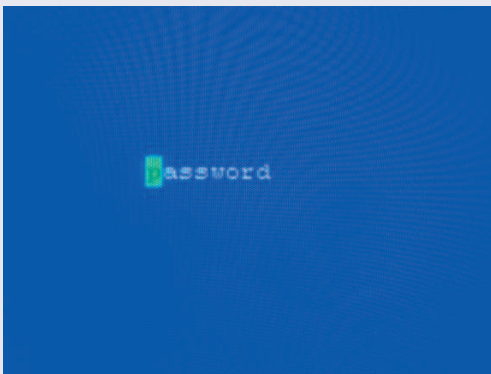
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7. Database Administrator



The work

A database administrator is responsible for the planning, design, testing, installation and maintenance of information management systems used by companies and institutions across the commercial, public and education sectors.



Skills & Interests

- Organisational skills
- Attention to detail
- An understanding of database architecture
- Implications of legislation (e.g. DPA)

Entry

There is no single route to becoming a database administrator. The main requirements are having the right knowledge, skills and experience for the job. Previous experience in computing is usually required, often gained in IT support, programming, systems analysis or web development.

Qualifications are also a useful way of demonstrating a certain level of competency. Foundation degrees, BTEC HNC/HNDs and degrees are widely available at colleges and universities throughout the country.

Annual Income

New entrants: £17,000 - £20,000

Experienced administrators: £31,000

Senior administrators: Up to £45,000



Careers in IT

8. Archivist



The work

Archivists manage and preserve collections of historical records and documents. These can include books, papers, photographs, maps, tape recordings, films and videos and electronic records.



Skills & Interests

- History and the preservation of information
- Research and organisational skills
- An interest in applying new technology

Entry

To become an archivist you need a degree and a post graduate qualification recognised by the Society of Archivists.

The following degree subjects can be useful: history, information science, library studies and modern or ancient languages.

However, most subjects will be acceptable provided you can show a keen interest in history. You should contact the universities for their specific entry requirements.

Annual Income

Starting salary: £20,000

Experienced archivists: Up to £35,000

Specialist archivists: Up to £60,000



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9. Cartographer



The work

Cartographers produce maps and other detailed geographical information like charts, surveys and graphs - from maps for everyday use to specialised charts used by industry, surveying or the military.



Skills & Interests

- Geography and the environment
- Computer and mathematical skills
- Design skills and spatial awareness

Entry

To work as a cartographer, you will usually need a degree in a subject such as geography, geographical information systems (GIS), surveying and mapping science, topographic science, earth sciences and urban and land studies.

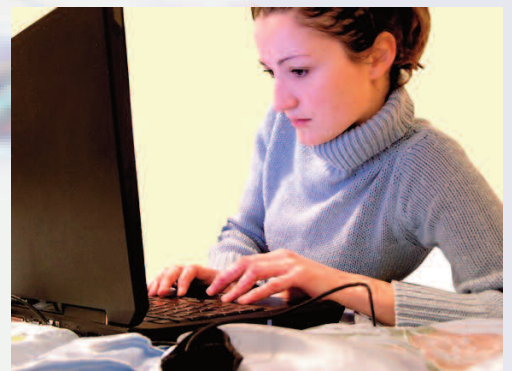
There are no degrees in cartography alone, but the above subjects often include cartography as part of the course. Other degree subjects such as surveying, civil engineering, oceanography or computing could also be useful.

Annual Income

New entrants: £15,000 - £18,000

Experienced staff: Up to £30,000

Senior cartographers: Up to £45,000



Careers in IT'

10. Information Scientist



The work

Information scientists find, organise and distribute information. They manage and maintain information resources and develop systems so that high-quality information is easily accessible to anyone that needs it.



Skills & Interests

- Organisation and time-management skills
- Research and communication skills
- Computer skills, particularly databases

Entry

Most information scientists are graduates. You will need either a degree in information management or librarianship that has been accredited by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), or a degree in any subject, plus a postgraduate qualification accredited by CILIP.

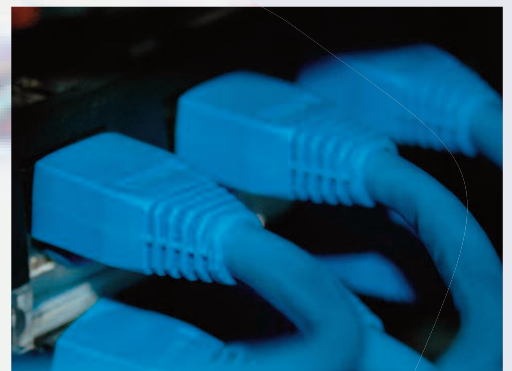
Several universities offer accredited first degrees in information management or information and library studies (course titles may vary).

Annual Income

New entrants: £16,000 - £20,000

Experienced scientists: Up to £35,000

Senior scientists: £38,000 +



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11. IT Support Technician



The work

IT support technicians help to diagnose and correct software and hardware problems for IT users. They may work as part of a team within their own organisation or work for external commercial customers.



Skills & Interests

- Networking
- Hardware
- Prioritising
- Operating systems
- Office Software
- Communication skills

Entry

If you have a good working knowledge of computer systems, it is possible to enter as a trainee without an academic background but you can enhance your prospects by studying for vocational awards.

Foundation degrees, BTEC HNC/HND awards and degrees are also valid entry qualifications. Relevant courses include computing, computer studies / science, networking and business information technology.

Annual Income

New entrants: £13,500 - £15,500

Experienced staff: Up to £22,000

Senior staff: £25,000 +.



Careers in IT

12. Media Researcher



The work

Researchers find the information, people and places for television, radio and film productions and website content, making sure that information is always correct.



Skills & Interests

- Research and communication skills
- An instinct for spotting a good story
- Knowledge of current affairs and media

Entry

There are no set entry requirements, but most researchers have a degree or postgraduate qualification. Degrees in journalism, English, history, media studies or media production are useful, but your degree could be in any subject. For some jobs you may need qualifications and specialist knowledge in other subjects such as music or science and technology.

Whatever your background, the key to entering the broadcast industry is to gain practical experience and develop a network of contacts in the industry.

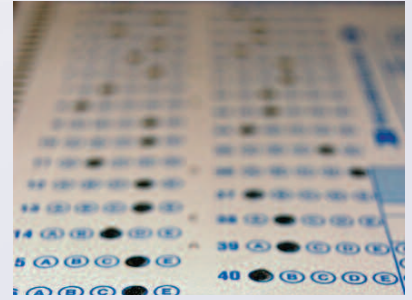
Annual Income

Rates will vary depending on experience, the type of production and the budget available.



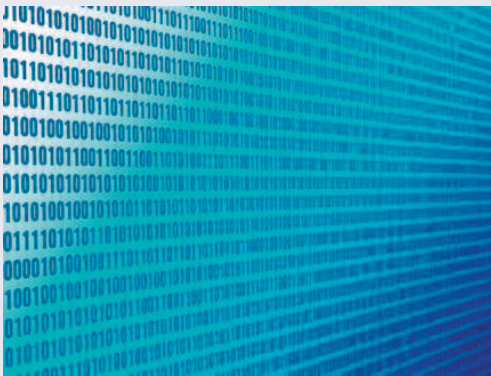
Careers in IT

13. Data Entry Clerk



The work

Data entry clerks update, maintain and retrieve information held on computer systems. They also transfer information from paper-based records on to computerised systems.



Skills & Interests

- IT skills
- Literacy
- Initiative
- Numeracy
- Attention to detail
- Data confidentiality

Entry

There are no minimum entry requirements, although some employers may prefer applicants with qualifications, such as English and maths GCSEs (A-C). Apprenticeships may be available for people aged between 16 and 24.

A working knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet and database software is helpful although not always essential. Several computing qualifications cover these software packages.

Annual Income

Starting salary: £10,500 - £13,500

With customer service duties:

Up to £15,000



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14. Technical Author



The work

Technical authors (known as technical writers outside the UK) use their technical knowledge to prepare documents that can be easily understood by users of products and systems.



Skills & Interests

- Research and analysis skills
- Produce clear technical documents
- Strong literacy skills

Entry

Employers will usually look for those with background knowledge of their specific industry, and most technical authors have qualifications or extensive experience in areas such as scientific, computing, technical, commercial, journalism or engineering.

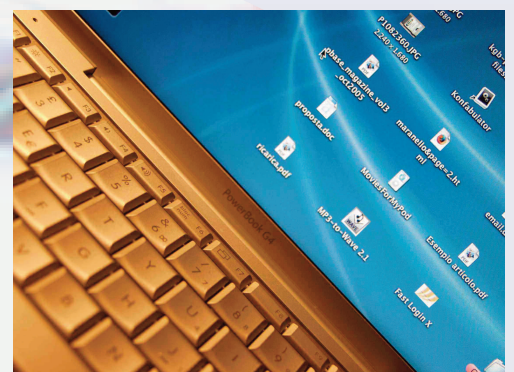
There is an increasing move away from paper-based documents to electronic information, so it could be useful if you have IT skills and working knowledge of applications such as Standard Generalised Mark-up Language (SGML) and Xtensible Mark-up Language (XML).

Annual Income

New entrants: £15,000

Experienced authors: Up to £25,000

Senior authors: £35,000 +



Careers in IT

15. Security Service Personnel



The work

The Security Service's main responsibility is to protect national security and the economic well-being of the country, and to support the police and other law enforcement agencies in their work against serious crime.



Skills & Interests

- Be decisive, but also flexible
- Excellent communication skills
- The ability to recall events accurately

Entry

You will need to meet specific residency and nationality requirements.

Surveillance Officers are not required to have formal academic entry qualifications, although GCSEs (A-C) or equivalent grades may be preferred. For this role, the Service also prefers applicants to be of average appearance and build.

Generalists are normally expected to hold a 2:1 degree or equivalent; there are no subject preferences. Applicants are considered with lesser qualifications if they have three years of relevant work experience.

Annual Income

Administrative assistants: around £16,000

Starting salaries for specialists:
usually around £22,000

