Muskan Sharma

Benjamin Manning

Computer Systems Engineering 2210

20 April 2019

What’s Next Report

The idea of working with data and technology is quite intriguing and the titles “Data Analyst” and “Project Analysts” sound really cool, but what are they exactly? What do they do? How do they fit in an engineering project group? In what ways do they contribute?

A data analyst, as far a general definition goes, will gather and retrieve data and use it to come to conclusions that can help in the project and its potential uses. As Stephanie Pham, analyst of Porter Novelli, describes it, Data analysts’ work varies depending on the type of data that they’re working with (sales, social media, inventory, etc.) as well as the specific client project” (Rasmussen College). The insights the data analysts gather can help the employers and other people in charge know what their consumers are looking for in a product or what kind of improvement they should be aiming for in a product that already exists.

Analyst are involved in analyzing, obviously, but what does that mean? Regardless of which industry you are working in as a data analyst, you can be expected to spend “time developing systems for collecting data and compiling your findings into reports that can help improve your company” (Rasmussen College). Data analysts, as mentioned above, produce reports, spot patterns, collaborate with others and collect data. They do not just produce random reports that are pointless and not used for anything. No, these reports describe in detail what the latest trends are in whatever they are analyzing, whether it be customer feedback or the success of a specific product.

Moreover, they spot patterns. This is one of the biggest things. They spot patterns and write them in their reports. This helps employers see what they need to fix in their product or what other product they need to come up with. They also have to collaborate with their group and be able to work with others. According to Rasmussen College, the most common tools data analysts use is are: Microsoft Excel, SQL, Google Analytics, Google Tag Manager, Tableau, and Google AdWords.

A project analyst is a little different. Projects can be complex and they often have many different parts, logistics and people who might not be able to communicate with each other all the time. The reason why project analysts exist is so all of these things don’t get super complicated and out of hand. The project manager is responsible for making sure the project gets done on time, is within the budget and everyone is on task. They help the members of the engineering group communicate better with each other and help out everyone in any way they can. They spend a lot of time with the project team going over the requirements and making sure that they are all met. They also handle a lot of the paper work because out of everyone else in the group, they know the most about what is going on overall. Much like most of the other members on the project team, they report directly to the project manager and talk to them about how things are going.

A part of being the project analyst also includes being a data analyst from time to time. They gather critical information and make reports which is then given to the project manager.

For me in the future, I see myself as more of the hardware engineer. While I enjoyed my role as the project and data analyst, I cannot see myself doing it as a career. The only reason I assumed that position in my group is because I am not educated enough on the tools we needed in order to complete this project. However, as I learned more throughout the process, the more I began to like doing the hardware portion. It was completely calming to me in a weird way.

However, if I were to decide to be a project analyst or a data analyst, there are a numerous of companies and jobs I could work in and take. For instance, for data analyst, the company I work for does not even have to be technologically related. It could be anything and I would be fine. The job is very flexible when it is relating to the type of industry you can work in. As far as the project analyst goes, I’d obviously have to work in a technological company for that since to be a project analyst, I have to be a part of engineering project team. There are many opportunities for that line of career and if I decide to take this path, I would not have much trouble finding a job.

Work Cited

“What Does a Data Analyst Do? Exploring the Day-to-Day of This Tech Career.” *Rasmussen College*, www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/technology/blog/what-does-a-data-analyst-do/.