How to be a Network Administrator

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What does a system administrator do ?

- Understanding the specific requirements of clients
- Making recommendations and suggestions for the design of computer systems for clients
- Installing and maintaining systems like WANs (wide area networks) and LANs (local area networks) for a variety of organizations and institutions
- Maintaining and upgrading data cloud infrastructure and internet servers for clients
- Troubleshooting network issues and fixing identified problems
- Assessing cybersecurity threats and implementing mechanisms to prevent intrusions
- Making scripts for the automation of tasks and network processes
- Testing and improving the efficiency of computer systems and internet servers

Foundational skills

- Communication skills:
  - As a system administrator, you may need to interact with a variety of people, including clients, managers, stakeholders, executives, technicians and clerical staff.
  - Being able to convey complex ideas in terms that people can easily understand often requires good written and verbal communication skills.
- Organizational skills:
  - In this role, you may handle a variety of tasks, including keeping your resources, tools, files, communication and hardware organized at all times.
  - Additionally, you may also have to organize your primary tasks into a timed schedule and adhere to it strictly.

- Attention to detail:
  - System administrators often perform with accuracy and consistency.
  - They may have to analyze large amounts of data to generate useful insights and solve problems, so good attention to detail can help you avoid errors in this line of work.
- Technical skills:
  - You can benefit greatly from developing a good knowledge of programming, software development, hardware capabilities, testing mechanisms, protocols and network infrastructure.

Certifications

1. Microsoft certifications

- MTA (Microsoft Technology Associate):
  - The MTA certification is for beginners and indicates that the candidate has a basic understanding of technical concepts.
- MCSA (Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate):
  - This certification may be necessary for some entry-level jobs.
  - Obtaining it can indicate that you have core technical knowledge.
- MCSE (Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert):
  - The MCSE certification is for professionals who have good technical experience in the field of system administration.

2. RHCE (Red Hat Certified Engineer)

- RHCE certification involves a series of rigorous tests that verify a candidate's knowledge of Red Hat system administration.
- Through this certification course, you can develop a good understanding of Red Hat system operations, security management and storage configuration.
- The knowledge you have from your work can help you pass the certification test.

3. CompTIA Server+ certification

- This certification requires candidates to have a few years of professional experience in server management, including software and hardware knowledge.

- The course aims to give candidates proficiency in subjects like troubleshooting, data recovery, networking, security, storage, server administration and server architecture.
- Candidates who pass a 90-minute exam earn the certificate, which has lifetime validity.

4. CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate)

- The CCNA is an associate-level IT certification from Cisco Systems Inc.
- It indicates you have proficiency in installing, maintaining and repairing network systems for small to medium size organizations.
- Candidates require a good understanding of security, programmability, automation and network access to pass the test.