

COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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OVERVIEW

The Occupations

Computer Network Support Specialist, Computer User Support Specialists, Database Administrators, Software Developers, Applications, Web Developers

About The Occupations

Computers have become essential to all phases of modern life including traditional areas of business and science, as well as applications in entertainment and personal life. The most crucial element of any computer system is the person operating it. The computer field includes an ever-growing array of occupations. Three important jobs are programmers, microcomputer support specialists, and information technology specialists.

Computer programmers convert project specifications from end-users and statements of problems and procedures to detailed, logical flow charts for coding into computer language. They develop and write computer programs to store, locate, and retrieve specific documents, data and information.

Computer support specialists provide technical assistance and training to computer systems users. They investigate and resolve computer software and hardware problems of users. They answer client inquiries in person, and by telephone, and by e-mail concerning the use of computer hardware and software, including printing, word processing, programming languages, electronic mail, and operating systems.

Information technology specialists are proficient with application software commonly used in the workplace. This includes word processing, spreadsheets, database, presentation software and operating systems. Information technology specialists support the day-to-day operation of typical business activity in numerous fields.

CAREER OUTLOOK

WORK ENVIRONMENT	
Employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising services • Health services and professions • Educational institutions • Financial institutions • Governmental entities • Manufacturing businesses • Data processing and information services • Public utilities • Wholesale and retail enterprises
Typical Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40-hour work week normal • Occasional overtime • Shift and part-time work possible • Telecommuting is becoming more common for some computer professionals, including programmers and specialists
Tools and Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers and related equipment • Technical manuals • Computer reports and graphs
WORKER PORTRAIT	
Skills and Aptitudes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works well independently and with others • Concentration and the ability to think logically • Tenacity and patience • Ability to attend to exacting analytical detail • Works well under pressure • Ingenuity and imagination in problem solving • Ability to communicate with non-technical personnel • Ability to work with abstract concepts and do technical analysis
Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifelong learning • Enjoys problem-solving • Embraces technical advancements

OUTLOOK	OCCUPATION
Stable	Information Tech Specialist
Excellent	Computer Programmer
Excellent	Computer Support Specialist
POSITION	SALARY (PER YEAR)
Computer Network Support Specialists	\$29,400-\$85,800
Computer User Support Specialists	\$27,400-\$85,800
Database Administrators	\$40,800-\$114,000
Software Developers, Applications	\$55,900-\$133,800
Web Developers	\$46,000-\$124,800

(Note: Individual earnings may vary based upon the job setting and position.)

Sources: America’s Career InfoNet: www.acinet.org

DEGREE/CERTIFICATE

CONCENTRATION OPTIONS	DEGREE / CERTIFICATE TYPE	DEGREE PLANS
Computer Information Technology - Business Emphasis	Associate of Science	View Degree Plan
Computer Information Technology - Engineering & Scientific Emphasis	Associate of Science	View Degree Plan
Computer Information Technology - Cloud Computing	Associate in Applied Science	View Degree Plan
Computer Information Technology - Cybersecurity	Associate in Applied Science	View Degree Plan
Computer Information Technology - Network Systems	Associate in Applied Science	View Degree Plan
Computer Information Technology - Programmer/Software Developer	Associate in Applied Science	View Degree Plan
Computer Information Technology - Cloud Virtualization	Certificate	View Degree Plan
Computer Information Technology - Cybersecurity	Certificate	View Degree Plan
Computer Information Technology - Network Systems	Certificate	View Degree Plan
Computer Information Technology - Software Development	Certificate	View Degree Plan
Computer Information Technology - Dual Credit Cybersecurity	Certificate	View Degree Plan
Computer Information Technology - Dual Credit Networking	Certificate	View Degree Plan

FACULTY