

IT: Today and Tomorrow

Information technology is no longer confined to research labs and industries; it has permeated every aspect of our lives. IT is a field in which the rate of change is extremely high. New research, new developments, and new applications are wonderful for society but challenging for IT professionals. To cope with the fast-changing environment, IT professionals must re-evaluate and relearn constantly.

Is IT Still an Attractive Career?

Radical changes in IT careers are expected. Survivors of the dot-com burst of the '90s are now facing new challenges related to outsourcing, off-shoring, and downsizing. Despite the fact that several IT companies have closed down and the field has had to endure many negative media reports, more companies have entered the field, more graduates have entered the profession, and the pay has improved dramatically. An unstable past and competition have taught large IT organizations to become lean, mean, specialized shops.

On the plus side, computer use and networking, as well as demand for new software, has continued to explode. With a mind-blowing rise in the number of organizations that incorporate IT into their businesses, there is a tremendous demand for IT professionals.

Why Are IT Careers in Demand?

- Competition among organizations to develop innovative and sophisticated software.
- Emergence of the Internet as a trusted tool of businesses, which results in demand for experts to create web applications.
- Sophistication of data-processing systems.
- Need to integrate computer systems with mobile technology.
- Rise in cyber-security concerns.

Jobs for IT Professionals:

1. Computer support specialists provide technical assistance for client organizations. Increasing complexities in computer technology and the need to integrate and adopt new technologies prompts organizations to hire specialists.
2. Computer software engineers enable computers to perform various applications by developing software and systems. Rapid growth in the computer and data processing services industry will result into several jobs for software engineers.
3. Computer hardware engineers design computer hardware and supervise its manufacture, installation, and performance. With the integration of computers and IT into every aspect of industry and business, more and more organizations will need support to manage, upgrade, and customize their complex systems.
4. Computer Programmers. Computer programmers write detailed instructions called programs for the proper functioning of computers and their applications. There are numerous openings for programmers in the rising number of software-developing firms, data-processing services houses, consulting firms, and large business organizations.
5. Systems Analysts and Database Administrators. Systems analysts help organizations solve computer system problems, and database administrators devise ways to organize and store data. Because of rapid growth in computer and data-processing services, organizations will continue to hire these professionals.

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About the Author

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