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Education Today / Career Tomorrow

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Network Support Services

The rapid and widespread use of computers and information technology has generated a need for highly trained workers proficient in various job functions.

With the Internet and electronic business generating large volumes of data, there is a growing need to be able to store, manage, and extract data effectively. Database administrators work with database management systems software and determine ways to organize and store data.

Network systems and data communications analysts, also referred to as network architects, design, test, and evaluate systems such as local area networks (LANs), wide area networks (WANs), the Internet, intranets, and other data communications systems.

Telecommunications specialists focus on the interaction between computer and communications equipment. These workers design voice and data communication systems, supervise the installation of

the systems, and provide maintenance and other services to clients after the systems are installed.

The growth of the Internet and the expansion of the World Wide Web have generated a variety of occupations related to the design, development, and maintenance of Web sites and their servers.

Source:
The Occupational Outlook Handbook

Job Outlook

Networking careers are expected to grow 37 percent from 2006 to 2016, much faster than average for all occupations.

Job increases in the field will be driven by rapid growth in computer systems design and related services, which is projected to be one of the fastest growing industries in the U.S. economy.

Explosive growth in technology is expected to fuel demand for specialists who are knowledgeable about network, data, and communications security.

Money Matters

Career: Network Support Services

Job Description: Sets up, configures, and supports internal and external networks. Develops and maintains all systems, applications, and network configurations. Troubleshoots network performance issues and maintains a disaster recovery plan. Installs, troubleshoots, repairs and maintains telecommunications equipment.

Salary: \$34,200 to \$80,050 per year.

For more information on how to start your career in Network Support Services, please contact:

Career Counselor Terri Parrish
 (941) 751-7900 ext. 2018
 parrishm@manateeschools.net

Education Needed

Rapidly changing technology requires an increasing level of skill and education on the part of workers in these occupations.

Most community colleges and many independent technical institutes offer an associate's degree or certification in computer science or a related information technology field. Many of these programs may be geared more toward meeting the needs of local businesses and are more occupation specific.

Employers usually look for people who have broad knowledge and experience related to computer systems and technologies, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and good interpersonal skills.

Courses in computer science or systems design offer good preparation for a job in these computer occupations. For jobs in a business environment, employers usually want systems analysts to have business management or closely related skills, while a background in the physical sciences, applied mathematics, or engineering is preferred for work in scientifically oriented organizations.

Computer scientists and database administrators must be able to think logically and have good communication skills. Because they often deal with a number of tasks simultaneously, the ability to concentrate and pay close attention to detail also is important.



"The Network Support Services program at MTI provides training on computer maintenance, logical thinking applied to new concepts and troubleshooting, and network design. Program content is updated to reflect current technology and business trends. The Cisco Networking Academy provides an internet available resource for curriculum and other technical resources. Job opportunities in the field continue to hold steady even with the current economic climate - if anything, companies need to rely more on networks with less people." -Tom Howell

"I have always been interested in computers. I got into this program because I feel it is the gateway to higher learning. So many careers focus on networking experience. After I finish the program, I will attend USF next year and earn my Bachelors degree in Computer Science and Business. I also want to go on to get my Masters. I want a career in this field because I believe that technology is the future!" - Westley Kline

Teacher

Student

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