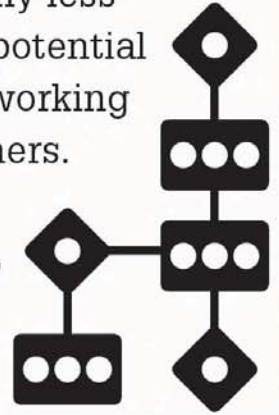




SYSTEMS ANALYST

JOB DESCRIPTION

Information Technology (IT) lies at the heart of most businesses and organizations, so a poorly designed computer system can make a company less efficient. Systems analysts identify potential problems in a computer system by working closely with its users and programmers. They provide recommendations for how the system may be redesigned, and plan and manage ways of achieving these goals.



SALARY

Junior systems analyst ★★☆☆

Senior systems analyst ★★☆☆

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Healthy jobs market • Employers range from large corporations to small enterprises • Growth in employment in the public and financial services sectors

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Information Technology (IT) • Computer science • Business information technology • Electronic engineering • Mathematics



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A degree in a computing-based subject is required. A graduate qualification in business administration is becoming desirable.



LIFESTYLE Systems analysts usually work regular hours, but they may have to work overtime to meet project deadlines.



LOCATION Work is usually office-based, but sometimes projects can be done remotely from home. Travel to visit clients may be required.



THE REALITIES The fast-paced nature of work and tight deadlines can be stressful. Systems analysts need to keep up to date with fast-evolving technology.

RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **SOFTWARE ENGINEER** *see pp. 118–119*
- ▶ **DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR** *see pp. 122–123*
- ▶ **NETWORK ENGINEER** *see pp. 124–125*
- ▶ **DATA ANALYST** Analyzes the huge volume of computer data companies collect to identify patterns that may help make a business more profitable. Data analysts then present these findings to senior management.
- ▶ **IT RISK MANAGER** Scrutinizes a company's IT systems, and identifies and fixes security weaknesses that could lead to the theft or damage of computer-based information.

In its list of "Best Jobs in 2014," *US News and World Report* listed systems analyst at No. 2.



CAREER PATHS

Once qualified, systems analysts can specialize in a particular type of computer system, such as an accounting or health-care system. If they work for a big company, they may be able to move into management or a strategic planning role.

TRAINEE After graduating high school, you can become a trainee IT technician while studying part-time or via distance learning for a relevant degree.



GRADUATE To become a systems analyst, you need a degree in computer science, mathematics, business studies, or a related area.



SYSTEMS ANALYST

Analysts work closely with business managers to develop effective IT systems. As an analyst, you may recommend and install new hardware or software, test the system, and teach staff how to use it. With experience, you may choose to specialize.



SKILLS GUIDE



Good team-working skills, and the ability to work with people in all parts of a company.



Strong leadership skills to motivate technicians, instruct developers, and influence managers.



An analytical and logical approach to designing and testing complex systems.



Highly developed IT skills across a wide range of hardware, software, and networks.



Sound commercial awareness to provide clients with cost-effective system solutions.

SENIOR ANALYST Heads up a team of IT professionals or takes on a management role, advising the directors of a company on IT strategy, such as implementing the use of databases.



TECHNICAL ARCHITECT

Makes decisions about the types of hardware and software products to be used. A technical architect is sometimes called a systems designer.



IT SYSTEMS PROJECT MANAGER

Oversees an IT project from start to finish. You will develop plans, manage teams, study risks, and track project budgets.



SOFTWARE ANALYST

Diagnoses problems with business software. May develop and write code for new applications when necessary.



IT CONSULTANT

Provides advice on IT matters to a range of businesses and government bodies for a management consultancy firm.