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# DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Companies in almost every sector, from engineering to marketing, rely on accurate data to make key business decisions. Database administrators store and organize data in databases that recognize patterns in the information. They ensure the databases run efficiently, providing users with data when they need it.

### SALARY

Graduate ★★★★★

Experienced administrator ★★★★★

### INDUSTRY PROFILE

Worldwide job opportunities •  
Possibility of working in a variety of sectors, from publishing to finance •  
Every website at least partly comes from a database

## SKILLS GUIDE



Good communication skills to understand and supply accurate data as it is requested.



Efficient time management skills for dealing with constant data-processing requests.



Problem-solving skills to ensure that data is backed up reliably, easy to retrieve, and secure.



A strong interest in, and a good understanding of, software and coding.



Attention to detail to fix—or avoid—computer bugs that can cause problems in a database.

## RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **SOFTWARE ENGINEER** *see pp. 118–119*
- ▶ **SYSTEMS ANALYST** *see pp. 120–121*
- ▶ **NETWORK ENGINEER** *see pp. 124–125*
- ▶ **WEB DEVELOPER** *see pp. 128–129*
- ▶ **FINANCIAL PROGRAMMER** Works with modern programming languages to write software used by financial institutions, such as banks.
- ▶ **INFORMATION SCIENTIST** Manages an organization's information resources, such as databases, online services, books, and paper-based records.
- ▶ **IT CONSULTANT** Advises a business on how to improve its IT infrastructure. They must have a good knowledge of databases, networks, and all different kinds of software.

## AT A GLANCE



**YOUR INTERESTS** Computer science • Coding • Information Technology (IT) • New technologies • Data security • Mathematics



**LOCATION** Work is office-based. Some administrators may be able to work from home, even though they deal with staff from all parts of a company.



**ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS** A technical degree, such as in software engineering, computer science, or mathematics, is desirable but not required.



**THE REALITIES** This is a high-pressure role. You will be expected to respond quickly and accurately to all sorts of problems, from hard-drive failure to servers not functioning.



**LIFESTYLE** Working after-hours is likely. You may be expected to field round-the-clock requests from members of your company.



## CAREER PATHS

Large companies with complex data requirements provide the best opportunities for career progression. Database administrators can specialize in one area of technology.

**DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR**  
Increasing data needs and advances in technology mean that you will have several potential options for career development in this field.



**TRAINEE** If you have an interest in IT, you may be able to train on the job within a company's IT department.



**GRADUATE** Graduates with degrees in IT or another related technical subject will be able to find entry-level positions.



**NETWORK MANAGER**  
Ensures that networks are secure and synchronized across the globe, and also implements the latest technologies.



**PROJECT MANAGER**  
Oversees a project from start to finish, liaising with a range of people across the business.



**DATABASE ARCHITECT**  
Designs the underlying structure of a database, based on the client's needs and goals.



**DATA WAREHOUSE SPECIALIST** Manages and analyzes data (both current and historical) collected from different parts of an organization.

