



## What is IT?

In the past, people relied heavily on books, pictures or word of mouth to gain knowledge and communicate. While some of this still exists today, IT (information technology), has improved our ability to access and send information. IT encompasses millions of interconnected computers, networks, and devices. It's this digital infrastructure that allows us to design, store, transfer, and gather data 24/7.



## EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON IT

All major institutions, from hospitals to recording studios, consider IT an essential part of their operations. IT is at the heart

of every major industry: banking, healthcare, entertainment, manufacturing, retail and more. In fact, despite their differences, there's one thing they all have in common; they depend on IT.



### IT AFFECTS EVERYTHING

IT drives the way we live, learn, work, interact, and amuse ourselves. IT is what's behind social media and other online communities

where we choose our friends, colleagues, life partners, and political leaders. And it's IT that enables mobile devices that let us stay connected.



## The Digital World



#### IT FUELS THE WORLD

Our digital world is expanding so rapidly that it's creating IT job openings faster than trained people can be found to fill them. In the U.S. alone, IT job postings for Q1 reached over 850,000.\* There's no better time to get into IT.

\*CompTIA IT Employment Snapshot, Q1 2016





## IT IS HOT!

Technology trends are creating a strong demand for certified IT professionals in a number of fields, including healthcare IT, security/cybersecurity, cloud computing/SaaS, and data storage and management. Employers are actively looking for qualified IT professionals to fill these positions, and you could be one of them.



### **GETTING AHEAD IN IT**

Build your career on a solid technical foundation and give yourself an edge with CompTIA. There's an array of exciting career paths to choose from and getting CompTIA certified is the essential first step in securing your future in IT.

Validating your skills through certification allows you to choose from a number of IT career tracks. IT education and certification help you get that desirable job and keeps you on a growing path as you acquire more advanced technical skills.

"My goal wasn't to be in the IT field, it was to be a soccer player ... but then I got involved in technology and liked it. To me it's not like it's a job, it's more like a hobby."

Jose Morales, Junior IT Technician





CompTIA is a global nonprofit trade association that has issued more than 2 million IT certifications!

"CompTIA certifications gave me the foot in the door I needed to get my first IT job."

Lewis Shoulders, Network Technician



According to a 2015 report from BLS, the average median salary for IT occupations was \$81,430 compared to \$36,200 for all other occupations.

Certification also makes you more competitive and employable. Our research shows that 91% of hiring managers believe IT certifications are valuable in validating expertise. In addition, 8 in 10 employers reward or recognize their staff after passing a certification exam with an increase in salary or pay, public recognition, bonus or promotion.\*

\* CompTIA Employer Perceptions of IT Training and Certification



IT job categories are endless, but here are just a few, fast growing occupations that might pique your interest:

- Information Security Analysts
- Web Developers
- Software Developers, Applications
- Computer Systems Analysts
- Computer User Support Specialists
- Computer and Information Systems Managers
- Database Administrators
- Computer Programmers

## TECHNOLOGY JOBS— AVERAGE SALARIES

- Network Architect: \$112,176
- Software Engineer: \$105,100
- Database Administrator: \$98,213
- Database Analyst: \$90,370
- Systems Analyst: \$79,665
- Network Administrator: \$62,358
- Help Desk/Technical Support Specialist: \$52,902

Based on 5-10 year's experience, Computerworld Salary Survey, 2016

## IT CAREERS START WITH A+



CompTIA A+ validates your understanding of the most common hardware and software technologies in business and certifies the skills necessary to support complex IT infrastructures. CompTIA A+ is a powerful credential that helps IT professionals launch their IT career.



#### **GET CERTIFIED AND GET NOTICED**

CompTIA certifications show employers that you have the knowledge they desire, making you an attractive candidate. In addition, CompTIA certifications demonstrate that you have a broad understanding of the technology landscape as well as the duties and responsibilities of various technical jobs.





#### **NEVER STOP LEARNING**

Certification is valuable and the more you acquire the more you'll be in demand. It shows you have the skills and dedication to your career and that's important to companies and organizations. Consequently, many large corporations around the world recommend or require CompTIA certifications for their IT staff or partners.

# COMPANIES THAT RECOMMEND CompTIA CERTIFICATIONS FOR THEIR STAFF:

- Apple
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- HP
- Lenovo
- Motorola
- Nissan
- Ricoh
- Sharp Business Systems
- Tiger Direct
- Xerox
- ...and more

## **3 STEPS TO CERTIFICATION**



Acquire technical skills and knowledge.



Get your college degree or high school diploma.



Get tested and CompTIA certified.

Once you earn your credential, keep developing and working towards more advanced certifications.

We can help get you to that next level in your career!

## PREPARING FOR IT

What classes or degree programs should you consider when pursuing a career in IT? Course titles may vary but programs like Computer Science, Engineering and Information Sciences, Applied Technologies, and Electronics Technology can get you started on an IT career path. The same is true of vocational training programs, so be sure to ask your instructor or career counselor about the classes you should take to get started in IT.

## **Get CompTIA Certified and Get Into IT**

Let us help you find the most rewarding career path in information technology.

https://certification.comptia.org/why-certify/students

## Did you Know?

Many schools offer college credit for CompTIA certification. Check to see if this applies to your course of study.



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