

Network Administrator

About my job:

As a network administrator, I am responsible for the day-to-day operations of an organization's computer network.



What I do every day:

- Oversee and maintain computer networks, computer hardware, systems software and applications software
- Perform data backups and manage disaster recovery operations
- Diagnose, troubleshoot and resolve hardware and software problems
- Implement network security measures to protect data, software and hardware
- Design, configure and test networking hardware and software
- Monitor network performance to identify potential adjustments and administer them
- Coordinate with colleagues and users about how to solve existing system problems

What makes my job great?

Job growth:

Employment of network and computer systems administrators is projected to grow 12 percent from 2012 to 2022.

Short-term training:

Although some employers only require a postsecondary certificate or associate degree, most require a bachelor's degree in a computer or information science field.

Good pay:

The median salary is \$67,500 per year. (That means that 50 percent of network administrators earn less and the other 50 percent earn more.) A high-level network designer and manager may earn \$100,000 annually.

Benefits:

Most network administrators work full time with benefits that may include:

- **Paid vacation**
- **Healthcare**
- **Tuition reimbursement**

How can you become a network administrator?



Academic/training credentials:

Most network administrator jobs require a bachelor's degree, but many companies hire network specialists with an associate degree. When a bachelor's degree is achieved, the employee can then move up to a network administrator position.

Other credentials:

- Additional certifications are available to develop areas of expertise.
- CompTIA A+
- CompTIA networking+
- CompTIA security+
- Cisco certified network (CCENT, CCT, CCNA, CCNE)
- Microsoft SQL certification
- Microsoft technology associate
- Microsoft certified solutions associate
- Microsoft certified solutions expert

Work experience/internships:

Internship opportunities can provide valuable experience in this field. Many employees gain work experience with an associate degree and continue education while employed.

Skills and requirements:

- Most network administrators work full time
- May require overtime or off-hour work for crisis situations
- Ability to pursue continuing education to keep up with new technology

Potential job titles:

- Network administrator
- Network engineer
- Network manager
- Local area network administrator (LAN administrator)
- Network specialist
- IT network specialist

Where you can find jobs:

- Online job boards
- Temporary employment services
- Career fairs
- Department of Career Services at colleges
- Networking
- Company websites
- Social media
- Computer user groups

Potential local employers:

- Key Bank
- Local small businesses such as law firms and manufacturing facilities
- Progressive Insurance
- Sherwin-Williams
- Steris
- University Hospitals



Local educational opportunities

Two-year institutions:

- Lakeland Community College: Associate of Applied Business in IT and Computer Science (operating systems/networking concentration)
 - IT specialist certificate
 - IT professional certificate
 - Red Hat Certified System Administrator (RHCA)
 - Red Hat Certified System Engineer (RHCE)
- Contact Lakeland Information Technology & Computer Science Department Chair at 440.525.7265.
- Cuyahoga Community College: Associate of Applied Business in Information Technology Networking Software Concentration
 - Kent State Geauga and Ashtabula Branches: Associate of Applied Business in Computer Technology (network technology concentration)



Ohio College Tech Prep
Building Quality Career Pathways

Four-year institutions:

- Holden University Center of Lakeland Community College/Kent State University: Bachelor of Technical and Applied Studies Computer Technology General Concentration
- Kent State University: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- University of Akron: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

High School Tech Prep:

- ATECH: computer networking and electronic technologies program
- Auburn Career Center: computer networking program
- Lake Shore Compact: CISCO program or computer information systems program
- Excel TECC: information technology and programming
- Contact your high school guidance office



Coursework per educational entity:

Secondary pathway:
Information Technology

Postsecondary program:
Computer Systems and Networking

An Example of Course with Secondary and Postsecondary Credits

Secondary	7	English I	Algebra I	Physical Science	Social Studies	Fine Arts	World Languages		
	8	English II	Geometry	Biology	World History	Health (.5) PE (.5)	World Languages		
	9	English III	Algebra II	Chemistry	U.S. History	IT Fundamentals	Information Security	Programming Logic	
	10	English IV	Trigonometry/Calculus	Physics	U.S. Government	Database Administration	Microsoft Windows	Object Oriented Programming	
Postsecondary	11	Introduction to Business	English Composition	First Year Experience	Survey of College Mathematics	Computers and Information Processing	Using Microsoft Windows	Network+ and Networking Essentials	
	12	Organizational Behavior	Business Communications	Programming Logic	Red Hat Academy System Administration I	Windows Configuration	Installing and Configuring Windows Server 2012		
	13	Managing and Optimizing Personal Computers	Security and Security Essentials	Red Hat Academy System Administration II	Shell Script Programming	Health Fitness	Administering Windows Server 2012	Configuring Advanced Windows Server 2012 Services	
	14	IT and Computer Science Capstone	Red Hat Academy System Administration III	Social and Behavioral Science Elective	Arts & Humanities Elective	Natural Science Elective	Technical Elective		
High School Career-Technical Education Program Courses									
High School Courses for Postsecondary Credit (Including Apprenticeship Hours) and the Corresponding Postsecondary Courses									
Required Courses									
Recommended Electives									
Ohio Department of Education					Ohio MEANS Jobs		Ohio Board of Regents <small>Leadership System of Ohio</small>		

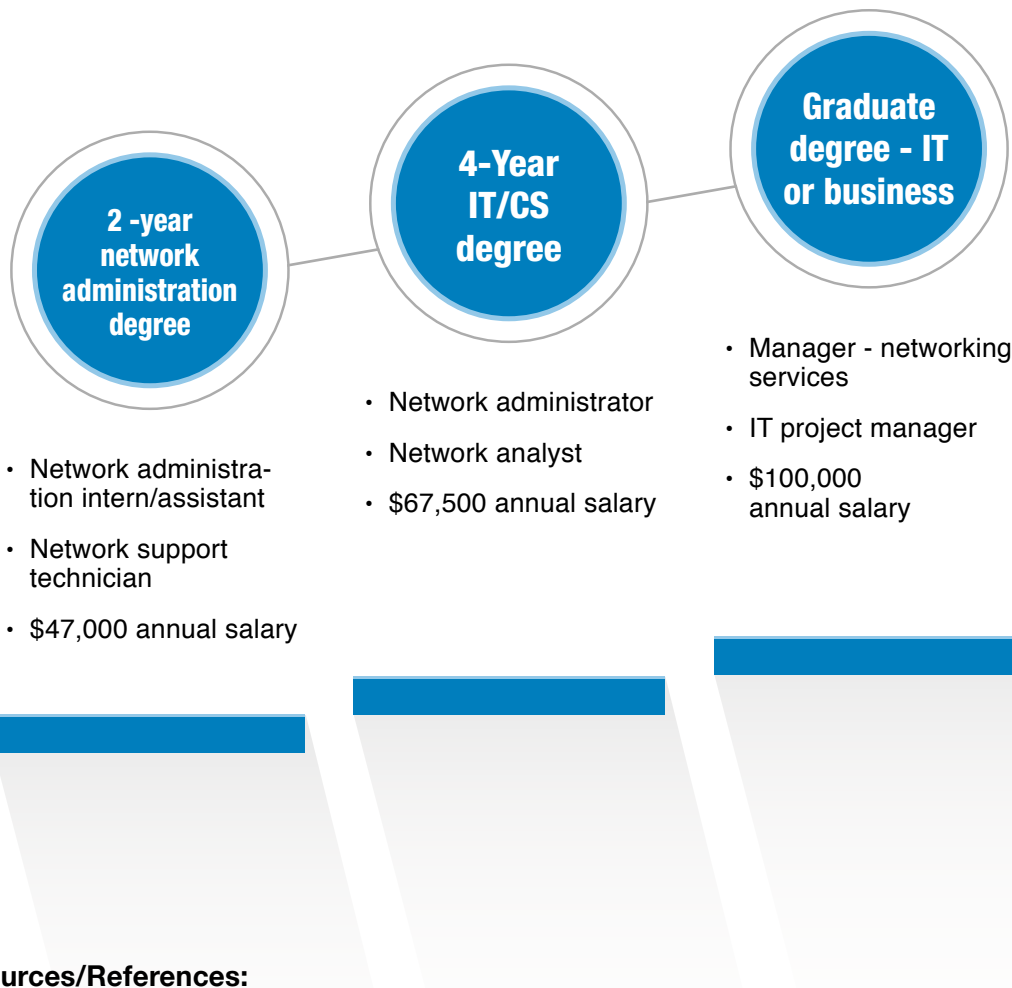
How can I grow my career?



Where could I focus or specialize in my career?

- Computer support specialist
- Network administrator
- Network architect
- Computer and information systems manager

The career ladder



Sources/References:

Ohio Means Jobs, Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

O*Net Online-Summary Report, Ohio Labor Market Information