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 technology associate
- Microsoft certified solutions associate
- Microsoft SQL certification
- 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

**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 job titles:**
- Network administrator
- Network engineer
- Network manager
- Local area network administrator (LAN administrator)
- Network specialist
- IT network specialist

**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)
- 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)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1 1st Semester</th>
<th>Year 1 2nd Semester</th>
<th>Year 2 1st Semester</th>
<th>Year 2 2nd Semester</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cuyahoga Community College: Associate of Applied Business in Information Technology Networking Software Concentration</td>
<td>Kent State Geauga and Ashtabula Branches: Associate of Applied Business in Computer Technology (network technology concentration)</td>
<td>Contact Lakeland Information Technology &amp; Computer Science Department Chair at 440.525.7265.</td>
<td>Contact your high school guidance office</td>
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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

2-year network administration degree

- Network administration intern/assistant
- Network support technician
- $47,000 annual salary

4-Year IT/CS degree

- Network administrator
- Network analyst
- $67,500 annual salary

Graduate degree - IT or business

- Manager - networking services
- IT project manager
- $100,000 annual salary

Sources/References:

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