Computer Systems Analysts

SOC: 15-1211 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

$103,790	521,100	+9.0%
Median Salary	Employment	Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 12.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

9.8/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	7.4/10	**Investigative**	9.2/10
Artistic	4.6/10	**Social**	5.4/10
Enterprising	5.6/10	**Conventional**	6.8/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Business skills, Communication skills, Creativity, Detail oriented, Organizational skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Computer Systems Analysts are information technology professionals who evaluate, design, and improve **computer systems so they align with an organization's business goals and operational needs**. They act as a bridge between technical teams and nontechnical stakeholders, ensuring that software, hardware, and workflows work together efficiently, securely, and cost-effectively.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy problem-solving, systems thinking, and translating business requirements into technical solutions.

What Do Computer Systems Analysts Do?

Computer systems analysts study existing systems and recommend improvements or new solutions.

Common responsibilities include:

- Analyzing current computer systems and business processes
- Gathering requirements from users and stakeholders
- Designing system specifications and workflows
- Recommending software, hardware, or process changes
- Coordinating with developers, engineers, and vendors
- Testing systems to ensure functionality and performance
- Preparing documentation and training materials

Types of Systems Analysis Roles

Computer systems analysts may specialize by industry or system type:

- Business Systems Analysts: Focus on aligning IT systems with business operations.
- IT Systems Analysts: Concentrate on technical system performance and integration.
- Enterprise Systems Analysts: Work on large, organization-wide systems.
- Applications Analysts: Analyze and support specific software applications.
- Data or Process Analysts: Improve data flows and operational efficiency.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Computer systems analysts combine technical knowledge with communication and analysis skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

Entering this field typically requires postsecondary education and technical experience:

- Bachelor's Degree (common): Computer science, information systems, business, or related fields
- Relevant IT or Business Experience: Experience in programming, networking, or business operations
- On-the-Job Training: Learning organization-specific systems
- Professional Certifications (optional): Systems analysis, project management, or business analysis credentials
- Continuous Learning: Keeping skills current with evolving technologies

Where Do Computer Systems Analysts Work?

Computer systems analysts are employed across nearly all industries:

- Technology and Software Companies
- Financial Services and Banking
- Healthcare and Insurance Organizations
- Government Agencies

- Manufacturing and Logistics Firms
- Consulting and Professional Services

Many roles offer hybrid or remote work options.

How Much Do Computer Systems Analysts Earn?

Earnings vary by industry, experience, and system complexity:

- Entry-Level Analysts: Typically earn competitive IT salaries
- Experienced or Senior Analysts: Often earn higher compensation
- Specialized or Consulting Analysts: May earn more depending on expertise

Compensation often includes bonuses and strong benefits.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career is intellectually demanding but manageable for those with strong analytical skills. Analysts must understand both technical systems and business needs, often balancing competing priorities and timelines. The challenge lies in clear communication, accurate requirements gathering, and keeping pace with technology changes.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Computer Systems Analyst?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy analyzing problems and systems
- Like translating business needs into technical solutions
- Communicate well across teams
- Are detail-oriented and logical
- Want a versatile IT career with broad application

How to Prepare Early

- Learn basic programming, databases, and systems concepts
- Study business processes and problem-solving methods
- Practice documenting requirements and workflows
- Gain experience through internships or IT support roles
- Explore systems analysis or business analysis certifications

Computer systems analysts improve how organizations work by aligning technology with real-world needs—turning complex systems into efficient, user-centered solutions that drive productivity and informed decision-making.