

Network and Computer Systems Administrators

SOC: 15-1244 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$96,800

Median Salary

13,800

Employment

-4.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 14.0% 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

9.2/10 - 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, Communication skills, Creative skills, Multitasking skills, Problem-solving skills, Technical skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Network and Computer Systems Administrators install, configure, and maintain **an organization's computer networks and systems**. They ensure network security, optimize performance, and troubleshoot technical issues. Their work is critical in businesses, government agencies, educational institutions, and IT services.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy technology, problem-solving, and maintaining computer systems.

What Do Network and Computer Systems Administrators Do?

These professionals manage the day-to-day operation of computer networks and systems.

Common responsibilities include:

- Installing and configuring network hardware and software
- Monitoring network performance and security
- Troubleshooting and resolving system and network issues
- Implementing backup and recovery procedures
- Managing user accounts, permissions, and access controls
- Updating and maintaining documentation for systems and networks
- Collaborating with IT teams, vendors, and users to support technology needs

Key Areas of Network and Computer Systems Administration

Administrators may focus on specific systems or network functions:

- Network Security: Protecting systems from cyber threats and unauthorized access
- Server Administration: Maintaining servers, storage, and virtualization platforms
- User Support and Account Management: Assisting employees with access and technical issues
- Performance Monitoring: Ensuring network efficiency and uptime
- Backup and Disaster Recovery: Preparing systems for failures and emergencies

Skills and Abilities Needed

Network administrators combine technical knowledge with problem-solving and communication skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and technical experience:

- Bachelor's Degree: Computer science, information technology, or related fields
- Certifications (optional but beneficial): CompTIA, Cisco, Microsoft, or other IT certifications
- On-the-Job Training: Practical experience managing networks and systems
- Continuous Learning: Keeping up with new technologies, cybersecurity threats, and software updates

Where Do Network and Computer Systems Administrators Work?

They are employed across organizations that rely on computer networks and systems:

- Corporations and Businesses
- Educational Institutions
- Government Agencies
- Healthcare Organizations

- IT Services and Consulting Firms

Work environments include offices, server rooms, and remote administration settings.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires technical expertise, problem-solving, and attention to detail. Administrators must manage network reliability, security, and user needs while staying updated on evolving technology.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy working with computer networks and systems
- Have strong analytical and troubleshooting skills
- Are detail-oriented and organized
- Can communicate technical information effectively
- Want a career that ensures the smooth operation of technology in organizations

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in computer science, networking, and information technology
- Gain experience with computers, servers, and networking hardware
- Explore internships or volunteer opportunities in IT support
- Learn network security, administration tools, and software systems
- Pursue certifications and hands-on projects to build practical skills

Network and computer systems administrators maintain and protect critical technology infrastructure, ensuring reliable, secure, and efficient network operations for organizations.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/network-and-computer-systems-administrators.htm>