Computer and Information Systems Managers

SOC: 11-3021 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

$171,200	**667,100**	**+15.0%**
Median Salary	Employment	Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 10.0% 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

8.9/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	4.2/10	**Investigative**	6.8/10
Artistic	4.4/10	**Social**	7.8/10
Enterprising	8.6/10	**Conventional**	7.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Communication skills, Computer skills, Decision-making skills, Leadership skills, Problem-solving skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Computer and Information Systems Managers are senior technology leaders who plan, coordinate, and direct **an organization's computer-related activities and IT strategy**. Often called IT managers, information systems managers, or chief information officers (CIOs), they ensure technology supports business goals, security requirements, and operational efficiency. Their role blends leadership, technical knowledge, and strategic decision-making.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy leading teams, aligning technology with business needs, and managing complex systems at scale.

What Do Computer and Information Systems Managers Do?

Computer and information systems managers oversee technology operations and long-term IT planning.

Common responsibilities include:

- Planning and directing an organization's IT strategy and systems
- Managing IT staff, vendors, and project teams
- Overseeing system upgrades, integrations, and implementations
- Ensuring cybersecurity, data integrity, and system reliability
- Setting technology policies, standards, and procedures
- Managing IT budgets, timelines, and resources
- Communicating technology needs and risks to executives

Types of Computer and Information Systems Managers

Managers may specialize based on organizational focus:

- Chief Information Officers (CIOs): Lead overall IT strategy and governance.
- IT Directors or Managers: Oversee daily IT operations and staff.
- Information Security Managers: Focus on cybersecurity and risk management.
- Applications or Systems Managers: Manage enterprise software and platforms.
- Infrastructure Managers: Oversee networks, servers, and cloud systems.

Skills and Abilities Needed

These managers combine leadership with broad technical understanding.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires advanced education and progressive experience:

- Bachelor's Degree (required): Computer science, information systems, or related field
- Work Experience (required): Several years in IT, systems analysis, or technical leadership roles
- Master's Degree (common): Information systems, business administration, or technology management
- Professional Certifications (optional): Project management, cybersecurity, or IT governance credentials
- Continuous Learning: Keeping pace with emerging technologies and threats

Where Do Computer and Information Systems Managers Work?

They are employed across nearly every industry:

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

- Government and Public Sector Agencies
- Manufacturing, Retail, and Logistics Firms
- Education and Research Institutions

Many roles offer hybrid or executive-level office environments.

How Much Do Computer and Information Systems Managers Earn?

Earnings vary by organization size, industry, and leadership scope:

- Mid-Level IT Managers: Typically earn strong professional salaries
- Senior or Enterprise Managers: Often earn significantly higher compensation
- CIOs or Executives: May earn premium pay with bonuses and incentives

Compensation often includes benefits, bonuses, and long-term incentives.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career is demanding and high-responsibility. Managers must balance security, performance, budgets, and business priorities while leading teams and responding to incidents or system failures. The challenge lies in making strategic decisions in fast-changing technological environments.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy leading technical teams
- Like aligning technology with business strategy
- Communicate effectively across departments
- Can manage risk, complexity, and accountability
- Want a senior, high-impact technology role

How to Prepare Early

- Build strong foundations in IT systems and networking
- Gain experience in technical and supervisory roles
- Learn project management and business fundamentals
- Develop communication and leadership skills
- Explore advanced degrees or management-focused IT programs

Computer and information systems managers guide how organizations use technology—turning complex systems into strategic assets that drive efficiency, security, and long-term success in a digital-first world.