



Everything you need to know
about IT certification—your
ticket to a rewarding career in
information technology



How do I
get there
from here?



How to profit from
the growing shortage
of IT professionals

jobs



It's no secret that IT is one of the fastest growing fields in the U.S. What's less well known is that there are so many career opportunities to choose from—if you have an IT certification.

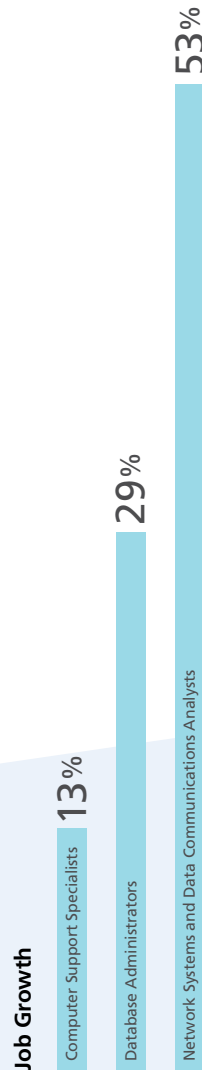
At a time when some industries are shedding jobs at an alarming rate, IT offers you a wider range of entry-level positions—and more career choices—than just about any other field.

U.S. employers are expected to need 155,000 more computer support specialists and systems administrators by 2016. * They'll also be looking for 146,000 computer systems analysts and 140,000 network system and data communications analysts. Are you ready to be one of them?

When bad news is good news

Industry observers are sounding the alarm about a growing networking and security skills gap. That's bad news for the companies that need people with networking skills, but good news for the certified IT professionals who are proficient in those skills.

The certification programs offered by CompTIA are designed to help you acquire those skills—and fill that gap.



Technology skills most in demand

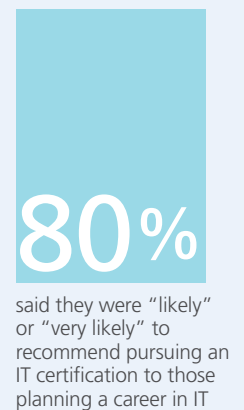
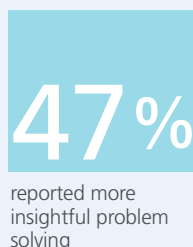
- Business Process Modeling
- Database Administration
- IT Architecture
- IT Security
- Project Management
- Data Mining
- Web Development
- IT Optimization
- Networking

Source: *Network World*

Certification and the Job Satisfaction Index

Apart from purely financial rewards, a significant number of individuals who completed a CompTIA certification program reported other benefits.

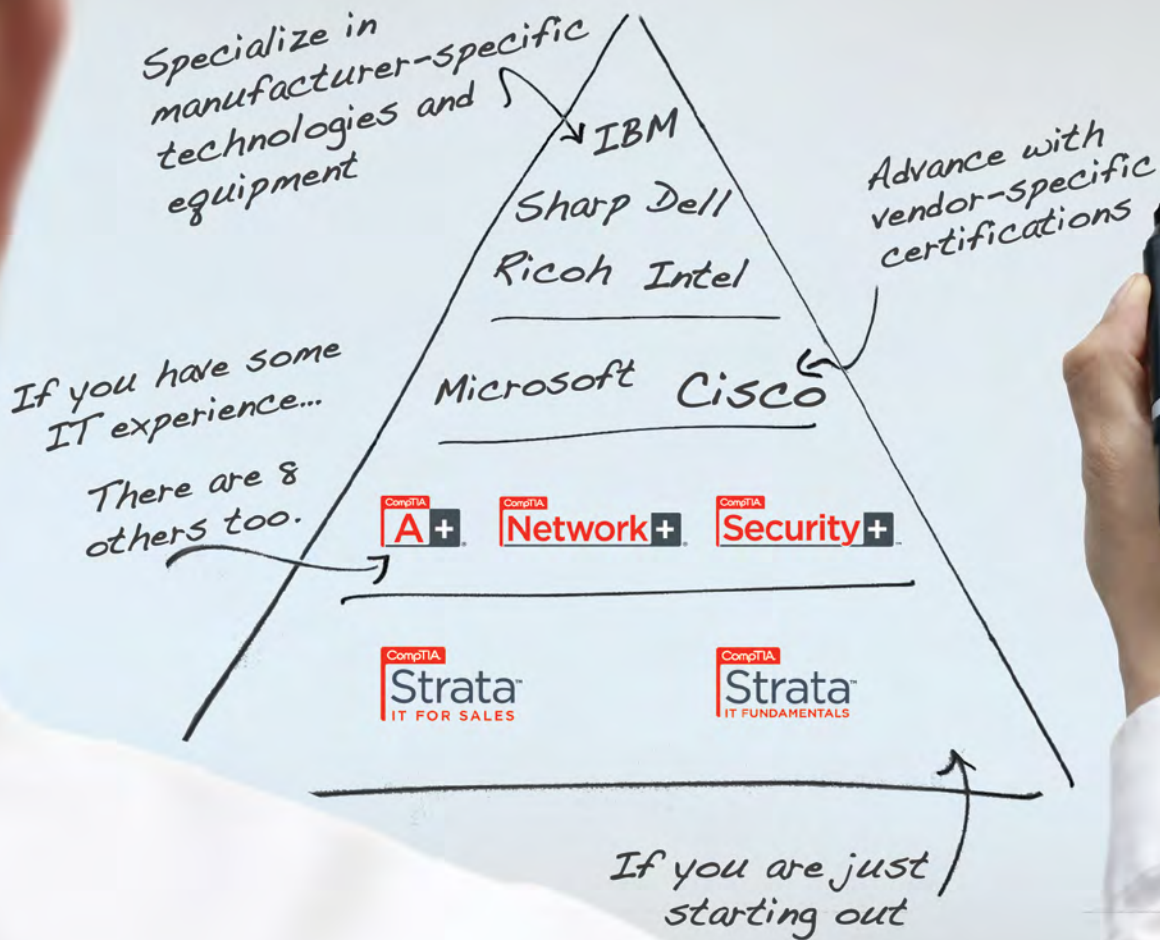
Source: CompTIA



* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics job projections, 2006-2016.

level up!

Levels of IT Certifications and Exams
Where do you fit?



Technical credentials help you grow in your career

Certification is an ongoing process: you start by learning the fundamentals, then keep earning different levels of certification denoting new skills as you grow in your job and assume greater responsibilities.

Get recognition for the skills you already have

Suppose you already have some technical skills and experience solving basic computer and networking problems for friends and relatives—will that count at all? Absolutely. There's a CompTIA exam you can take to evaluate your knowledge and abilities, and to certify that you possess basic computer skills.

Once you've mastered the fundamentals, you may choose to specialize in a specific area such as networking, security, software technology, or hardware support.

Move up step by step

Your journey starts with a solid technical foundation, and CompTIA has a number of certifications and programs to help you build one. For example, you may want to take a CompTIA Strata exam before starting on your CompTIA A+ or CompTIA Network+ certification. Several of the Strata exams are designed as stepping stones to bigger things.

If you already have a year or so of experience in IT, get certified with CompTIA A+. Like all CompTIA certifications, A+ is "vendor-neutral," meaning that it covers a wide spectrum of technologies from different companies. It's the recognized industry baseline for most first-year IT job seekers. As the best known certification CompTIA offers, A+ is what some of the most successful IT professionals used to launch their own careers.

Every skill you acquire makes you that much more attractive to hiring managers. Pursue IT certifications from basic skills to advanced technical specialties to land those dream jobs.

Why CompTIA?

As a global nonprofit trade association, CompTIA is unbiased. That alone gives our certifications enormous credibility, especially for entry-level job seekers. Ask IT hiring managers why they regard CompTIA certifications so highly, and they'll tell you it's because vendor-independent validation of your technical skills matters a great deal.

What certificates and certifications are right for you?

CompTIA offers a number of certificates and certifications that can put your career on a fast track, including security, data networks, imaging and printing equipment, voice over IP (VoIP), project management, and more.

CompTIA Strata Certificate Programs

CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals

For students and candidates just starting out

Knowledge of PC components, setting up a workstation, recognizing security risks, and preventive maintenance

CompTIA Strata IT for Sales

For candidates considering or currently in a technical sales role

Using effective communication, identifying prospects, and providing appropriate solutions and ongoing customer care

CompTIA Strata Green IT

For candidates with decision-making authority over their organization's green IT initiatives

Implementing green IT technologies, techniques, standards, and policies

CompTIA Certifications

CompTIA Project+

For candidates considering project management

The entire process of project management, including initiation, planning, execution, acceptance, support, and closure

CompTIA Server+

For IT professionals

Building, maintaining, and troubleshooting server hardware and software

CompTIA Security+

For IT professionals

System security, network infrastructure, cryptography, assessments, and audits

CompTIA PDI+

For entry-level printer and document imaging technicians

Basic electromechanical components and tools, print engine and scan processes, color theory, and networking

CompTIA Network+

For networking professionals

Managing, maintaining, troubleshooting, operating, and configuring basic network infrastructures

CompTIA A+

For entry-level IT technicians

Preventive maintenance, basic networking, installation, troubleshooting, communication skills, and professionalism

CompTIA Linux+ Powered by LPI

For Linux professionals

System architecture, GNU and Unix commands, user interfaces and desktops, and Linux installation and package management

CompTIA CTT+

For technical instructors

Classroom preparation, presentation, communication, facilitation, and evaluation in both traditional and virtual classroom environments

CompTIA CDIA+

For sellers of document imaging solutions

Planning, designing, and specifying a document imaging management system

CompTIA RFID+

For RFID professionals

Installation, maintenance, repair, and troubleshooting of RFID products

CompTIA Convergence+

For VoIP professionals

Designing, implementing, and managing voice and data networks



What are my chances?

That's a question everyone asks—or should ask—before choosing a new career. Let's start by assuming that you're a student at a community college with two years of vocational training under your belt.

In a head-to-head competition for an entry-level IT position, how would you fare against a graduate armed with a four-year degree? Very well, as it turns out. CompTIA has seen plenty of statistical and anecdotal evidence that indicates an IT certification produces a high degree of credibility when it comes to entry-level jobs in information technology.

Our research shows that two-year students with an IT certification often trump four-year students who haven't built a solid technical foundation. Additionally, interviewees who were certified were hired at a greater rate.

confidence

Opportunities in a fast-growing field

As the IT industry creates new jobs at record rates, a CompTIA certification can qualify you for a rewarding new career. And if you want a CompTIA certification for technical knowledge and skills relating to specific companies such as Microsoft and Cisco, there are exams to help you do that, too. Certification is available for skills in a number of related fields:

- Computer and network security
- Server management and administration
- Linux operating system management and administration
- IT project management
- Vendor-specific career paths at tech giants like Microsoft and Cisco
- Systems engineering for projects in industries from transportation to defense

What certification does for you

Hiring managers cite IT certifications as evidence of real-world knowledge. To them, the fact that you've earned your certification indicates that you're a focused, motivated individual who has gone beyond theoretical knowledge and actually acquired a set of marketable (and from an employer's perspective, desirable) skills. You've learned something that can be useful to them, so they're more inclined to hire you.

Real-world benefits of certification

Increasingly, employees in a technical role are required to get certified within months of being hired. If you are IT certified to begin with, employers will have to spend less time and money training you. That gives you an inside edge.



How do you land an entry-level job in IT? Hiring managers have a one-word answer: certification.

Certification makes you more attractive to employers

In today's competitive job market, you need every advantage you can get. You need technical skills, and you need proof of those skills. That's why more people like yourself are getting certified as a way to start a career in fast-growing fields like IT.

A woman with voluminous curly brown hair is smiling broadly, looking upwards and to the right. She is in a server room, with rows of server racks and blue cables visible in the background. The lighting is bright, and the overall atmosphere is positive and professional.

certify



There are currently over 500,000 job openings for IT professionals in the United States. Interested?

The word on the street

To what extent does certification improve your promotion prospects and job security? The statistical evidence is strong, but anecdotal evidence is just as important. Because when it comes to career choices, the best research is the kind you do yourself.

Chances are that someone in your circle of friends, classmates, and relatives has one of CompTIA's certifications, and will be happy to talk about the raises, recognition, and promotions he or she has received. The indications are that certifications help increase job security. In fact, some IT professionals even go so far as to credit a CompTIA certification with saving their jobs from outsourcing.

Let CompTIA be your guide

Since 1993, more than a million people have earned CompTIA certifications. Sit across the table from hiring managers and corporate recruiters and watch closely while they speed-read your résumé. Notice the light that comes on when they see that you're IT certified?

How can you get started? Visit us at www.comptia.org/certguide for more information on:

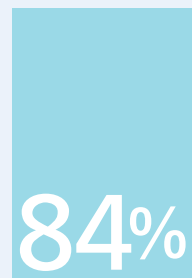
- Which certification and certificate programs are right for you
- The latest exam topics and availability
- Frequently asked questions about training and study preparation
- Costs of the exams and any special discount offers

What IT professionals say about certification

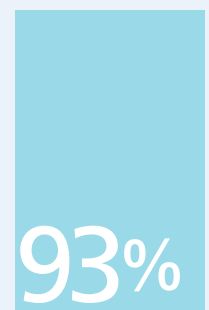
Source: CompTIA Certification Research Study, 2009



75%
say their CompTIA certifications make them more attractive to employers



84%
believe they now have the skills necessary to fulfill a job's requirements



93%
report that customers feel they are in good hands when working with them, due in part to their certifications



proof

- Helpdesk/Desktop Support
- Support Engineer
- PC Technician
- Network Security Engineer
- Computer Networking Administrator
- Senior Systems Administrator
- Senior Engineer
- Field Server Administrator
- Internet Systems Engineer
- Security Engineer
- Windows Desktop Engineer
- Senior Information Assurance Tech
- Network Engineer
- Technical Support
- Technical Service Technician
- System Administrator
- Network/VoIP Technician
- Network Admin
- Security Admin
- Senior IT Engineer
- IT Operations Engineer
- Virtualization Engineer
- Application Architect
- VoIP Engineer
- VoIP Security Test Engineer
- Project Manager
- Manager, IT Project Management
- Network Inspector
- IT Cable Installer
- Depot Technician
- Telecom Technician
- Network Convergence Analyst
- Computer Network Administrator
- Database Engineer
- Telecom Field Technician
- Wireless Administrator
- Security Specialist
- Security Architect
- Technical Trainer
- Linux Solutions Engineer
- Linux Administrator
- Digital Hardware Technician
- Integration Specialist
- Educational Specialist
- Training Specialist
- Sales
- Analyst
- Technical Analyst
- CompTIA Sales Representative



John Masters
Technical Specialist
 CompTIA certified

CompTIA

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