

# INTERNET-INTRANET TECHNOLOGIES SPECIALIST



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We live in an information age, and one of the most rapidly evolving information technologies (IT) is the Internet. There has been a boom in the need for qualified people to harness this power for companies scrambling to exploit the usefulness of the Internet and Intranets (connectivity similar to the Internet, but used privately and "in-house" by businesses). With this technology, businesses can share information easily and efficiently within themselves and with other companies.

Businesses may use this technology to sell their products to consumers all over the world via a few keystrokes or clicks of the mouse. This is just the beginning of a dynamic list of potential applications that the Internet has made possible.

IT specialists are multitaskers. They determine what the company's plan is and what IT can do to help, and they oversee the development of these strategies. They manage computer programmers, systems analysts, and designers who implement the systems that make IT technologies work.

Throughout, they must make the best use of their departmental resources. Delivering what senior executives cry out for can be stressful, and there are lots of meetings to discuss the feasibility and precedence of those often high and numerous expectations.

IT work requires education, experience, and long hours, but most will find it monetarily rewarding. Typically, Internet-Intranet technologies specialists have an associates degree in an IT-related field.

Associate degrees, such as those earned at Rhodes State College, provide intense hands-on training that prepare the students to "hit the ground running" once they enter the work force. It is common for employers to assist these people in the on-going technology training that is necessary to keep pace with the rapidly changing technology trends. After years of experience, these specialists are qualified for managerial level IT positions.

Most IT managers have strong interpersonal and leadership skills because they have to supervise their own employees in addition to interacting with many people inside and outside of the organization. Also, with the growth of cyber offices, communication skills are essential.

IT specialists typically spend their days in a comfortable, climate controlled, and clean environment. They may spend a lot of time in front of a computer screen. They sometimes are required to work weekends and evenings to meet deadlines or solve unexpected problems.

Technology changes at a dizzying pace. What is cutting edge today can be obsolete tomorrow. IT specialists must find this scenario appealing. They must have sharp technical aptitude along with old-fashioned human communication skills. After all, technology is a tool used by humans, to be explained to humans.

## Q&A

**Q.** When interviewing for a job in internet/intranet technologies — or in any professional field — are there any guidelines to follow?

**A.** No matter what job you are apply for, the interview is one of the most important phases. Consider the following tips:

- Remember that your contact with the interviewer may be brief. Make every second count.
- Walk confidently into the interview room. Hold your head up and offer a firm handshake.
- Listen carefully to what the interviewer says.
- Never respond personally; always respond from a working point of view.
- Have success stories in your head. Be ready to tell about yourself.
- Discuss experiences that are directly related to the position you are seeking.
- Be honest and direct.
- Lean forward when you are talking, and show your interest and attention. Make eye contact.
- Control nervous gestures.
- Show enthusiasm
- Smile! Project yourself as someone who is nice to be around.

— From "Working It Out: How to Get the Job You Want"

## JOBS IN THIS FIELD

Job titles	Place of work	Kind of work	Salary range*
Internet/Intranet technologies specialist	Office, home	Builds Internet/Intranet databases and interfaces. Creates business connectivity for the exchange of information.	\$42,000–\$60,000

\*Salaries may vary depending on region and experience. Sources: Chronicle Guidance Publications and Occupational Outlook Handbook.

## SKILLS REQUIRED

IT specialists should have logical, problem-solving minds, be adept with computer technology, and have a strong business background. They should also have good communication and administrative skills.

## WHERE/HOW TO GET TRAINING

### Schooling

An increasing number of I.T. Specialists are starting exciting careers with an I.T. related Associates Degree. Some of them opt to pursue a bachelors degree after securing employment, but this is not a requirement for many positions.

IT specialists need to take courses in computer programming, and database technologies, and be familiar with the latest software development platforms, like C#, Linux, and Visual Basic. But the technical applications in this field are ever changing, so a specialist must have the will to learn in addition to his current know-how.

Rhodes State College is a premier training site for I.T. employees who wish to stay current on the most recent I.T. developments in Computer Programming, Web Programming, Computer Networking, Network Security and Digital Media. Rhodes State College is an authorized Microsoft IT Academy, an authorized Cisco Local Network Academy, and Oracle training partner.

Today, many businesses seek IT managers with a master's degree in business administration with technology as a core component because IT's often have to make business decisions in addition to their technical abilities.

It is unlikely that a person can enter this field immediately as a manager. Previous experience as a Web master/ Web Programmer/ Web Designer can help with managerial advancement.

### Financial Aid

Grants, scholarships, loans, and work/study programs are available for college students. For most of this aid, high school seniors must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which is available from high school guidance offices and higher education financial aid offices.

For more information on federal financial aid programs, or to apply electronically, visit the U.S. Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.ed.gov>.



For more information on federal financial aid programs, call (800) 4FEDAID

## FUTURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Employment opportunities for Internet-Intranet Technologies Specialists are expected to rapidly increase through 2010.

Technological advancements

should increase the demand for computer-related workers. The result is the need for additional managers to direct these new workers.

## WORK ENVIRONMENT

The office culture and dress vary from company to company. Some executives dictate that workers adhere to a more formal dress code.

Others allow a very casual atmosphere and clothing.

The work environment is typically clean and pleasing.

## RESOURCES - HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

### BOOK:

Careers in Information Technology by Malani Ann Apel

### ONLINE:

- [www.ita.org](http://www.ita.org) (Information and Technology Association of America)
- [www.smartinternet.com](http://www.smartinternet.com) (Smart Internet Technology Cooperative Research Centre)

### GENERAL:

Institute for the Certification of Computer Professionals Ste. 268 2200 East Devon Ave. Des Plaines, IL 60018 [www.iccp.org](http://www.iccp.org)

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