

Information systems is the application of information technology to organizational and managerial needs. A computer information systems professional utilizes business theories while working with managers and users to specify technology needs that benefit the organization. In addition, they write programs to codify the technology and later manage it. An information systems professional might also develop code for business transaction processing systems, client/server systems or end-user support systems. They might implement such systems in languages such as COBOL, C++, Visual Basic or JAVA.

Computer and Information Systems Managers plan, coordinate, and direct research and design the computer-related activities of firms. They determine technical goals in consultation with top management, and make detailed plans for the accomplishment of these goals. Computer and information systems managers direct the work of systems analysts, computer programmers, support specialists, and other computer-related workers. These managers plan and coordinate activities such as the installation and upgrading of hardware and software, programming and systems design, the development of computer networks, and the implementation of Internet and intranet sites. They are increasingly involved with the upkeep and maintenance of networks.

Systems Analysts solve computer problems and enable computer technology to meet individual needs of an organization. They help an organization realize the maximum benefit from its investment in equipment, personnel, and business processes. This process may include planning and developing new computer systems or devising ways to apply existing systems' resources to additional operations. Systems analysts may design new systems, including both hardware and software, or add a new software application to harness more of the computer's power. Most systems analysts work with a specific type of system that varies with the type of organization they work for (business, accounting, or financial systems, or scientific and engineering systems). Some systems analysts also are referred to as **Systems Developers** or **Systems Architects**.

Salary Information:

- Computer Information Systems, Associate in Applied Science
\$45,000 Median Salary (Follow-up Study, Monroe Community College Graduates, 2006)
- **Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts for Rochester, New York area:**
\$67,700 Median Salary (Career One Stop, 2008)

[*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location]

Additional Information:

- Association for Information Systems: www.aisnet.org
- Institute of Certification of Computing Professional: www.iccp.org

