

What exactly is an information technology professional?

With the widespread use of the personal computer, World Wide Web, smartphones, and social media, the world has truly entered the information age. This transformation, arguably as dramatic as the industrial revolution, is changing the way we work and live. Information technology, or IT, enables this information revolution by combining the communications and computer technologies needed to create, store, exchange, and use information.



Information technology, a relatively new and rapidly growing professional discipline, started as a grass-roots response to the practical, everyday needs of businesses and other organizations as they dealt with new and ever-changing technologies. The need was for professionals who possessed the right combination of knowledge and practical, hands-on expertise to take care of both the organization's information technology and the people who use it. Typically, IT specialists assume responsibility for an organization's existing and future hardware and software needs, integration with current infrastructure, and installing, securing, and customizing such applications and systems for the organization's computer users. In addition, they are often involved in the planning, implementation, and management of the technology life-cycle by which the organization's technology is maintained, upgraded, and replaced. Keeping abreast of the latest technology and trends is a critical lifelong process for the IT professional. As citizens in this new digital age, information technology is an essential part of our everyday lives, making IT professionals a critical component of today's workforce.