Annotated Resources


This website gives a quick overview of a day in the life of a systems analyst, hiring habits, and a comparison of the new and the old. A systems analyst is sort of like a middle man that assesses the needs of the end user and turns this into programming. They spend most of the day behind their computer answering broad questions. What are the business requirements? Who will make up the user community? Being a systems analyst means being an out of the box thinker, and someone who can grasp the big picture. As far as hiring goes, most companies will not be willing to spend their money on someone who doesn’t have experience programming. A systems analyst and a programmer are essentially the same thing. However, if you don’t have any experience, sitting behind the help desk with internal training is a good start. In the 1970s, systems analysts worked on mainframes. This meant that there was a very specific way to write code, due to the memory and hardware limitations. Before the Internet-era, going from one webpage to another was extremely difficult, and the internet was only usable for a select few. “Today the field is open to the entire world and anything that’s Internet-based will provide good job opportunities,” says one systems analyst. “Right now the market is extremely hot and I think it will be this way for many years to come. You can basically name your job and name your price.” (Princeton)


This resource provides information about the average salary of a systems analyst, different possible career paths, as well as some common tasks while on the job. According to national polls, the average salary for a systems analyst in the United States is $64,378. There are a series of different career paths one could take after becoming a systems analyst. A lot of these paths end in management positions in all different types of IT fields. A few of the common tasks that the article mentioned were creating and maintaining documentation as necessary for operational and security audits and establishing new users, managing their access levels and resetting passwords.


This source serves as an overview of the different types of systems analysts, and the types of skills needed to pursue a career as an analyst. The three types of computer systems analysts are: systems designers, software quality assurance analysts, and programmer analysts. Systems designers analyze the company’s long-term goals and find technical solutions that match these
goals. Software quality assurance analysts analyze computer systems and make sure they are working properly. Programmer analysts analyze employer/consumer needs and develop the code that meets these needs. To get a job as any of the three types of systems analysts, you will need a bachelor’s degree in computer science or a related field. Some of the basic skills you will need are problem solving, critical thinking, communication skills, reading comprehension, writing, analytical skills, and creativity.

**Job Description**

**SYSTEMS ANALYST**

Computer systems analysts evaluate the computer systems of an organization and come up with information technology solutions to help them run more efficiently. They bring business and IT together by understanding the needs and limitations of both.

**DUTIES:**
- Consult with managers of organization to establish role of IT
- Doing research on the newest technology to see if it can play a beneficial role in your organization
- Prepare lists of costs and benefits for management to decide whether or not an upgrade is cost effective
- Devise ways to add new functionality to existing computer systems
- Oversee installation and configuration of new machines
- Try out the new systems to make sure they function correctly
- Train end users and write instruction manuals

**WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Computer systems analysts held about 520,600 jobs in 2012

Industries that employed Systems Analysts:
- Computer systems design and related services (27%)
- Finance and insurance (14%)
- Management of companies and enterprises (8%)
- Information (7%)
- State and local governments (7%)

Computer systems analysts can work directly for an organization or as consultants. Consultants usually work for an information technology firm. The projects that computer systems analysts work on usually require them to collaborate and coordinate with others.

**WORK SCHEDULES**

Most work full time. About 40 hours a week.

**JOB OUTLOOK/PROSPECTS**

In the period 2012-2022, employment of computer systems analysts was projected to increase by 25 percent. Systems analysts will continue to be hired at a rapid pace as long as organizations across the economy increase their reliance on information technology. Job applicants with a background in business may have better prospects because jobs for computer systems analysts often require knowledge of an organization’s business needs. An understanding of the specific field an analyst is working in is also helpful.

Commented [MJE4]: This sounds like a good fit for me. I tend to work well in a group.

Commented [MJES]: This is especially good for me because I am currently pursuing a minor in business from the Kelley School of Business.
Reflection

After analyzing the above resources and the job description, I feel confident that not only would a job as a systems analyst be a good fit for me, but it would also be a sound career. The information technology industry is booming, and there are tons of jobs up for grabs. If I can secure a job in this market and work hard, I should have a steady job for life. Also, I have all of the required skills of becoming a systems analyst such as critical thinking skills, creativity, and problem solving. I plan on getting an internship over the summer with the IT department at my dad’s company to get experience in the field and decide if it is a good fit for me or not.