



FEATURE



## Qualified Techies Have Bright Futures

[By Nihit Aurora]

If you are pursuing a technical qualification or are just out of technical school, chances are you may feel bewildered in the technical world that lies beyond your college gates. Therefore, when it is time to go job hunting, it will be sensible to study the market before putting your best foot forward and selecting your career.

Despite the rapid changes in the industry's paradigms, techies continue to form the backbone of any industrial organization. In the earlier days, techies were generally associated with the manufacturing industry and blue-collar responsibilities. However, the advent of the silicon age has given new meaning to the responsibilities that most techies handle and has changed society's perception of technical jobs.

Today's techies are generally associated with white-collar jobs such as network administration, systems administration, network engineering, technical support, software development, technical writing, database administration, and quality assurance.

Depending on their qualifications and work experience, techies can expect to earn anywhere from \$40,000 per year to more than \$100,000 per year in the United States today. The general educational qualifications the industry recognizes are computing or information technology degrees in chosen areas of specialization. Computing and IT organizations across the globe would

be gasping for air if there were no techies around to carry out their day-to-day operations.

Techies may be self-employed or may work for public- or private-sector organizations. Today, technical organizations are providing more focused client solutions. Techies employed by "solution-provider" organizations are dedicated to the specific needs of their employers. Though techies may argue that they are a "different species," the companies they work for exist to address the needs of their clients.

However, many techies prefer to go solo for a variety of personal reasons. They like being their own bosses, pursuing personal goals, and determining their own work schedules. Techies belonging to this category will generally find it difficult to mesh their employment needs with the requirements of potential employers; it is better for them to be self-employed.

For most techies, it is not advisable to focus heavily on promotion and marketing right away. The best way forward initially

is word of mouth. It is best to let friends and acquaintances know about your specialization and the technical services you offer.

At many companies in the corporate world, there are clashes between the "geeks" and the "suits." Technical staff members may not respect or appreciate their corporate bosses and may consider them intruders into personal areas governed by their technical proficiency. On the other hand, the "suits" are usually after corporate ideals such as customer satisfaction, performance, and efficiency.

Yet another issue that techies face today is outsourcing. A variety of tech jobs are being outsourced despite the concerns being voiced throughout the U.S. Nevertheless, above-average and top-level techies have already found niches for themselves in the domestic market and are proving to be sources of motivation for other techies who aspire to move up the ladder.

Regardless of the current situation, ambitious techies with motivation and devotion can still attain long-term success.



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