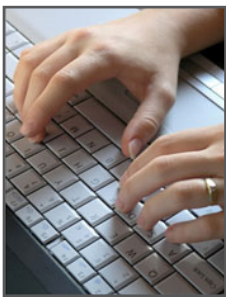




Systems Integration Jobs in the Information Technology Industry

If you work as a systems integrator, your job is basically to put the different components of a system together and make them work properly. Previously, it was sometimes a more difficult job to do because a systems integration was intermittent and many of the components were not originally meant to work together, so that there may be conflicts. However, industry standards today make systems integration jobs somewhat easier. Software can help diagnose and resolve conflicts because they let the systems integrators see how the components will work together. This then allows a systems integrator to see where the conflicts occur and resolve them much more easily than previous systems of "hit or miss."



Where do systems integration jobs exist?

Systems integration jobs occur in the information technology field, or in the industry or in media. Information technology is the most common, perhaps, and in this case, those who work in systems integrations make multiple systems work together so as to categorize, store, interpret, process

and input data. As an example, those in systems integration jobs might build an IT solution system that integrates several different components, including scanners, storage systems, document manage systems, and an inventory tracking system, all of different brands not originally meant to work together. The customer needs these solutions integrated seamlessly, but these components don't come together naturally. Therefore, a systems integrator makes sure that any conflicts are overcome so that they do work together.

In addition, systems integrators work in the media and in the defense industry, to make integrations occur seamlessly there, too.

System integration is perhaps the most well-known in the IT industry. Basically, as a system integrator, you have to be able to take customers' needs, see what you have an existing products, and then be able to put them together in a unique solution that's going to work. It's best if your generalist, so that you know a little bit about many products and therefore have some understanding of which might work together.

With systems integration, you'll need to be able to diagnose and troubleshoot problems that come up. Being able to research existing software and products and determining which can work together (or being able to troubleshoot your way through to find something that can) is also very useful.

The defense industry

Systems integration jobs in defense are also becoming more and more prevalent and necessary as defense systems become interconnected. It takes a lot of research and effort to integrate current systems with new ones. This is especially important since previous designs were not done with any thought to having to connect to other systems in the future.

Therefore, systems integration jobs in the defense industry take what's available and work to make them come together into one complete system that's going to work, even though this was never intended.

However, systems integration jobs don't just deal with making disparate parts work together in one seamless (often newly cobbled together) cooperative system. In addition, those who work in these jobs must also be able to present the information to those affected succinctly and clearly. In the military especially, different levels of users are going to have to know different subsets of the information. It's especially important because today, information can literally become outdated within seconds. Therefore, it's important that those in systems integration keep everyone up to date as to how everything works together.

Other areas involving systems integration jobs

Computer analysts, too, work in systems integration. In this case, this is usually specific to information technology; these types of systems integrators help organizations take advantage of and incorporate technologies that rapidly are rapidly changing into current systems so that they can take full advantage of them. This particular sector evolves very rapidly as specialization and changes in technology require sometimes instantaneous and new areas of thought and analysis.

In many cases, systems integration in this case involves the design and development of entirely new computer systems with new hardware and software configurations. In addition,



IT Job Feature

these types of systems integrators can apply existing resources to new tasks. Many times, systems integrators work with specific types of computer systems such as in the areas of financial, scientific or engineering systems.

Defining the problem and solving it

Before they begin, systems integrators consult with managers and users to determine what the problems are and what the goals should be. Then, they determine what they should do to meet those goals and to fix whatever problems occur. They decide how things will be processed, where the system will access the inputs, and then they decide how the output is going to meet users' needs. This takes many different skill sets depending on the area involved, from information engineering, sampling, mathematical model building, structured analysis, and data modeling as well as information engineering to make sure everything turns out just as it should.

In addition, software, too, is determined once the system is approved and systems integrators know the hardware that will be used. They first determine that the hardware is going to perform as planned, using flow charts and diagrams so that computer programmers can follow what has been done, so that the programmers can then debug or eliminate errors from the system that has been set up. In some cases, those involved in quality assurance may also diagnose problems and find solutions, and determine whether requirements have been met as originally set out.

Expanding needs

As more and more communicate with each other via computer, this means that different computer systems will have to be

able to communicate with each other. In this way, systems integration jobs will increasingly also deal with the interactivity that will be required between the systems so that different organizations or different departments within an organization can share information. This "networking" is going to continue to be increasingly important as computers become ever more ubiquitous, even globally.

Employment and outlook

Those who work in system integration jobs usually work a 40-hour week, as do most professionals or office workers. In some cases, evening and weekend work might happen as well, if there are ongoing system conflicts that need to be resolved. Median salary is about \$70,000 a year and the outlook for employment continues to be quite good.

Conclusion

Systems integration jobs are among the most plentiful in the employment sector, given that information technology and computers are becoming ever more ubiquitous between organizations. Because of that, disparate systems will continue to need to be linked together; for this reason, those who specialize in this type of integration will continue to be in demand despite a currently rocky economy. It's a challenging and rewarding job if you can look at "the big picture" and are good at inferring where problems might occur so that you can provide solutions with existing technology that may not actually be specifically made for the problem at hand. That said, though, those with these types of skills are certainly greatly in demand and will continue to be for at least the foreseeable future.

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