

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGERS CAREERS

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A combination of education and experience is usually required for most IT Manager jobs. **Computer and information systems managers** normally must have a bachelor's degree in a computer science or information science related field. Many computer and information systems managers also have a graduate degree. The number of years of experience required varies with the organization. Generally, smaller or newer companies do not require as much experience as larger or more established ones.

Most IT managers start out as lower-level managers and advance to higher positions within the IT department. **IT directors** or **project managers** can advance to become **CTOs**, who can advance to become a **chief information officer (CIO)**, the person in charge of all IT-related decisions in an organization. CIOs can advance to become top executives in an organization.

NATURE OF THE WORK

Computer and information systems managers, often called information technology (IT) managers or IT project managers, plan, coordinate, and direct computer-related activities in an organization. They help determine the information technology goals of an organization and are responsible for implementing computer systems to meet those goals.

Computer and information systems managers typically analyze their organization's computer needs and recommend possible upgrades for top executives to consider. They plan and direct the installation and maintenance of computer hardware and software and ensure the security of an organization's network and electronic documents. IT Managers may assess the costs and benefits of new projects and justify funding on projects to top executives. They learn about new technology and look for ways to upgrade their organization's computer systems. IT Managers determine short- and long-term personnel needs for their department, and plan and direct the work of other IT professionals, including computer systems analysts, software developers, information security analysts, and computer support specialists. They also negotiate with vendors to get the highest level of service for the organization's technology.

Few managers carry out all of these duties. There are various types of computer and information systems managers, and the specific duties of each are determined by the size and structure of the firm. Smaller firms may not employ every type of manager.

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CAREER SERVICES | OUTLOOK AND INCOME | TITLES AND SKILLS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT

Employment of IT managers is projected to grow 15 percent from 2022 to 2032, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for IT managers will grow as firms expand their operations to digital platforms. Employment growth will also result from the need to strengthen cybersecurity in computer and information systems used by businesses. An increase in the popularity of cloud computing may result in firms outsourcing services from in-house IT departments to cloud-computing companies.

*source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, OOH

SALARY EXPECTATIONS

The median annual wage for computer and information systems managers was \$169,510 in May 2023.*

*source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook.

SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Association for Computing Machinery - <https://www.acm.org/>
- Computing Research Association - <http://cra.org/>
- National Center for Women & Information Technology - <https://www.ncwit.org/>

JOB TITLES

- Chief Information Officers
- Chief Technology Officers
- Computer and Information Systems Managers
- IT Managers
- IT Project Managers
- IT Security Managers
- Network and Computer Systems Administrators
- Security Administrator
- IT Directors

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Critical Thinking
- Business Skills
- Communication
- Decision Making
- Leadership
- Organization
- Systems Analysis
- Operations Analysis
- Management of Financial Resources